Letter of support from DSDG to SULITEST

Dated: 24 May 2019

In September 2015, Heads of State and Governments of United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—a new global and universal plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its core. The 2030 Agenda recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, are to implement this agenda.

Each year, thousands of representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations entities, as well as diverse stakeholders gather in New York at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)—the United Nations' central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs—to review global progress made towards these ambitious commitments.

The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), an open partnership between several UN entities and higher education institutions world-wide, was created to act as an interface between higher education, science, and policy making around sustainable development. Each year in the margins of the HLPF, a global HESI event is organized to showcase how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs are being integrated by higher education institutions into sustainability strategies, research, teaching, pedagogy, and campus practices, and to position these institutions as key drivers for achieving the SDGs.

The SULITEST is a tangible outcome of HESI and a contributor to the review of the 2030 agenda through the HLPF. This easy-to-use online test has been created to raise awareness of the SDGs among students. The Division for Sustainable Development Goals has collaborated with SULITEST to develop some specific SULITEST modules related to the Global Agenda Framework and related to SDG 7 on Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. I am delighted that already 7500 people have taken these specific modules and that other UN agencies are starting to support the same kind of module creation related to other SDGs.

I strongly encourage higher education institutions to fully engage with HESI and all their students to check their awareness on our common agenda by taking SULITEST.

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