

Activity Report submitted on the 30th of May 2023 for SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, within the IAU HESD Cluster

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Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6 or Global Goal 6) is about "clean water and [sanitation](#) for all". It is one of 17 [Sustainable Development Goals](#) established by the [United Nations General Assembly](#) in 2015, the official wording is: "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." The goal has eight targets to be achieved by 2030. Progress toward the targets will be measured by using eleven indicators. SDG 6 seeks to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation for all, focusing on the sustainable management of water resources, wastewater and ecosystems, and acknowledging the importance of an enabling environment. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, countries have committed to engage in systematic follow-up and review of progress towards the Goals and targets, using a set of global indicators. Meeting Drinking water, sanitation and hygiene targets by 2030 requires a 4 times increase in the pace of progress because about 1.6 billion people will lack safely managed drinking water and 2.8 billion people will lack safely managed sanitation. Sustainable management of water resources and access to safe water and sanitation are essential for unlocking economic growth and productivity, and provide significant leverage for existing investments in health and education. The natural environment e.g. forests, soils and wetlands contributes to management and regulation of water availability and water quality, strengthening the resilience of watersheds and complementing investments in physical infrastructure and institutional and regulatory arrangements for water access, use and disaster preparedness. Water shortages undercut food security and the incomes of rural farmers while improving water management makes national economies, the agriculture and food sectors more resilient to rainfall variability and able to fulfil the needs of growing population. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems and their biodiversity can ensure water purification and water quality standards.

University of Tehran (UT) as the pioneer university in the country and region leads SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation in IAU. International collaboration in higher education leads to breakthroughs in knowledge, the exchange of ideas, and enduring bonds between institutions and nations. Leading the SDG6 by the University of Tehran offers valuable opportunities to put this advantage to practical use to tackle the increasing challenges such as global warming, climate change, drought, water scarcity and pollution. In closed and continuous cooperation with affiliated and satellite universities, UT has tried to bring the related bodies to the common ideas on how to implement the ideas of clean water and sanitation in higher education and sustainable development. Efforts were also made to invite more universities to cooperate in this network. Workshops and virtual seminars were held to exchange opinions and a program has been planned for the coming years. University of Tehran had active participation in the organised seminars and presented its ideas in IAU HESD Cluster Meeting regarding interdisciplinary approach in higher education and its relationship and nexus with SDG6 goals. University of Tehran welcomes any suggestion, capacity development ideas, joint and collaborative projects and initiatives for higher education in the regional and international levels.