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Letter of support from DSDG to SULITEST

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 recognises 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 – short for Sustainability Literacy Test – is a tangible outcome of HESI. This easy-to-use online test has been created to raise awareness of the SDGs among students. In the lead-up to the 2018 HESI event held on 11 July 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, my office collaborated with SULITEST to develop a specific SULITEST module related to **SDG 7 on Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**, as one of the Goals that were reviewed in-depth at HLPF in 2018.

I strongly encourage all students from higher education institutions to fully engage with HESI and to take the assessment modules of SULITEST.

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