

Purpose: *Given the experience of the past 2 years, it seems that there are differing views among member academies regarding the appropriate substance, form, and target audience for CAETS statements. It would be useful to agree upon key elements that could be presented to the Council for their endorsement.*

Over-arching question: Is 100% consensus required (i.e. sign-off by all member academies) required for issuance of a CAETS Statement?

Background:

2017: Statement was developed and circulated to members for comment in early January (one representative felt strongly that the statement should be available for Council review during its meeting after the Convocation). Comments were received from 9 academies and included both endorsements and strong objections, including:

Re. genetic engineering and blue bioeconomy -

- “Their main objection is that the engineers should focus their attention on the development of new, nature-inspired technologies, which could have a major impact on the global economy and ensure basic human needs to be met by sustainable means and methods, instead of continuing with the exhaustion of present potentials of nature that surrounds us.”
- “In the chapter on Genetic Engineering we recommend that we take out the last paragraph. GMO foods has never really been accepted and we think we need to consider what people feel in order to have them accepting new technologies.”

Re. structure and content –

- “We suggest to keep the traditional and rather standard and time proven form of the CAETS Statements from the preceding Convocations (see heading Statements&Reports at the CAETS website). These Statements clearly express the issues and state the conclusions and recommendation of CAETS. This kind of Statements the National Academies can present on the national level to inform the public and present them to the National Governments. We are sure this was the original idea behind the CAETS Statements.”

2016: Statement was drafted for review by the Council during the meeting after the Convocation ended; no consensus was achieved. RAE subsequently posted a video (which attracted a very large audience) and a brief description of the Engineering a Better World conference on their website.

Previously Posted Statements:

- 2015 CAETS Statement “Pathways to Sustainability in the Energy, Mobility and Healthcare Sectors”
 - Summary of Convocation – no recommendations
- 2014 CAETS Statement “Engineering and the Future of Humankind”
 - Summary included recommendations

- 2013 CAETS Statement “Educating Engineers”
 - Summary included recommendations
- 2012 CAETS Statement – Urban Development and Public Transportation: Improved Understanding of the Interdependencies
 - Summary included recommendations
- Conclusions prepared by AI of the 2011 CAETS Convocation on Engineering Analysis and Management to Reduce Risks
 - DRAFT statement posted
- 2010 CAETS Statement – Sustainable Food Systems
 - Statement included recommendations
- 2009 CAETS Statement – Global Natural Resources – Management and Sustainability
 - Statement included recommendations
- 2008 CAETS Statement – Delta Technology for a Sustainable and Habitable Planet
 - Statement included recommendations
- 2007 CAETS Statement -- Environment and Sustainable Growth
 - Statement included recommendations
- 2006 CAETS Statement – Oceans and the World’s Future
 - Statement included recommendations