STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education 2401 Walnut St., Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

The role of higher education institutions is to continuously adapt to the demands of today's world. Now more than ever, the University must train future leaders and community members capable of facing the challenges of a changing world and turn them into opportunities that promote socio-economic development and the long-term sustainability of our planet.

Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) has taken this opportunity to become a living laboratory to generate innovative solutions that promote sustainable behaviors in our community and society.

Founded 33 years ago, USFQ has been characterized by breaking paradigms and changing the traditional teaching system for a Liberal Arts philosophy, thus becoming a reference for higher education in Ecuador and Latin America. Today USFQ faces a different challenge: how to make higher education incorporate sustainability strategies to add value to its operations in a transversal way, consolidating the generation of knowledge with the creation of applied solutions that improve the quality of life of people and the planet?

Since 2013, USFQ has worked to implement projects and programs that promote our campus as a sustainable campus and to publicly communicate our performance in this path. As a result of these actions, in 2018 USFQ was the first campus in South America to be accredited by STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Reporting System) with a Silver rating.

This year we submit our second official report for a STARS rating, a management tool through which we measure the campus's progress on its way to consolidate itself as a leading smart campus in the region. This report reflects the work of the entire USFQ community and is a written testament to our institution's continued commitment to a sustainable future.

Diego Quiroga
Rector
Universidad San Francisco de Quito