Dear Dr. Salem,

Thank you for your interest in our paper, and we apologize for not responding earlier to your comments. We chose to wait for all reviews to be submitted before revising the entire manuscript in order to address all comments and suggestions raised simultaneously.

We fully agree with your notion that there are serious issues with raw wastewater in open waters as well as geopolitical implications. However, as the focus of our manuscript is to introduce a wastewater treatment plant database, rather than discuss general water pollution including untreated wastewater, we believe that these issues, while important, are largely outside the scope of our study. Nonetheless, to acknowledge this problem more clearly, we made several changes and additions to the manuscript to explain that we only focus on treated wastewater in our work (note that Reviewer #1 also made a comment about clarifying the expression ‘wastewater discharge’ which we responded to in a similar way). In particular, throughout the manuscript, we added the word ‘treated’ before ‘wastewater’ where appropriate, e.g., in line 106 where we introduce the objective of our study.

We also included sentences after line 434 in the original manuscript, and added a supporting reference (note that while we appreciate your own publication, we chose to use a reference which we believe fits better with the global scale of our work):

“In fact, the goal of this preliminary analysis is not to predict the distribution of contaminants since WWTPs are not the only source of pollution. In 2020, 48% of the global population did not have access to wastewater treatment (WHO & UNICEF, 2021), thus forcing them to practise open defecation or to dump raw wastewater directly into waterbodies. The dimension of the global wastewater problem, including treated and untreated sources, goes beyond the scope of our analysis.”
