

WFEO EARTH CHARTER RESOLUTION

The following Earth Charter Resolution was reviewed by the WFEO Executive Council on September 20, 2000 at its meeting in Bucharest, Romania.

BACKGROUND

WFEO responded to the opportunity to be active in the development of The Earth Charter and collected comments on the Benchmark II draft. Nineteen comments were submitted in accordance with the WFEO Resolution adopted by the WFEO General Assembly in Madrid on November 19, 1999.

Three other resolutions were adopted to utilize the abbreviated version, to address the full Earth Charter at the WFEO General Assembly in 2003 after the United Nation's action in 2002, and to consider how the Earth Charter could be utilized in the WFEO Model Code of Ethics.

The final Earth Charter was launched at ceremonies on June 29, 2000 in The Hague. WFEO participated by describing its review and comments on the Benchmark II draft. The resulting Earth Charter is more a document of values, rights, social responsibilities and spiritual living than one of "methods" of improving the quality of life. (See the Earth Charter website, www.earthcharter.org. Therefore, there are far fewer principles and sub-principles having clear engineering implications that engineering associations may want to address. However, as citizens, engineers are interested in the issues and values addressed in the entire document.

ACTIONS

To continue the implementation of the 1999 WFEO resolutions in addressing the engineering implications of The Earth Charter, WFEO will:

1. Distribute the sixteen primary principles of the Earth Charter to member organizations, urging the principles to be utilized as a test of policies, codes of ethics and other actions within their associations. This list is used because there was no abbreviated Earth Charter in the final Earth Charter Commission actions.
2. Urge member associations to appoint committees or an individual to study the Earth Charter to:
3. Develop comments to be forwarded to the United Nations that would improve the Earth Charter.
4. Determine how to use the Earth Charter in their associations
5. Consider how to use it as a basis for an engineering earth charter
6. Determine how to incorporate the principles of the Earth Charter into their codes of ethics.
7. Provide feedback to WFEO by July 1, 2001

This resolution is recommended by the WFEO Executive Commission to the member associations on September 20, 2000.