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CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE 2023 FAEO ENGINEERING POLICY AND PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION CONFERENCE

Introduction

As a result of Rwanda's continued visibility and trust by African peers, in 2020, Eng. KAZAWADI Papias Dedeki was elected for the total six years term in FAEO executive as the President Elect for two years, as the 6th President for two years and the Immediate Past President for two more years. The presidential term is scheduled to commence in January 2023 and end in December 2024.

Engineering ecosystem is a power of possibilities where a unit of innovation is measured by imaginations of individuals with ability to properly observe, decide and act competently with confidence, bearing in mind that science is the seed, while engineering is the tree that bears fruits of scientific discoveries essential for the sustainable world. To actualize that, the Federation of African Engineering Organizations (FAEO) was formed in 2012, as a non-governmental organization based in Abuja, Nigeria.

FAEO is Africa's umbrella professional engineering organization composed of engineering institutions from various countries of Africa including Institution of Engineers Rwanda (IER), Ghana Institution of Engineering (GhIE), Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK), Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), Egyptian Syndicate of Engineers (ESE), Ordre des Ingénieurs en Génie Civil du Burkina Faso (OIGC-BF) and many more. FAEO is divided into five regional blocks namely Eastern Africa Federation of Engineering Organizations (EAFEO), Southern Africa Federation of Engineering Organization (SAFEEO), Central Africa Federation of Engineering Organization (CAFEO), West Africa Federation of Engineering Organization (WAFEO) and North Africa Federation of Engineering Organization (NAFEO). Under FAEO, engineers, technologists, and technicians of various engineering disciplines share common interests, share technical knowledge, regulate professional practice, influence public policy, and uphold the profession's traditions and reputation.

Understanding that engineers do not have an abundance of resources, nor do they have the political power to bend things their way, they however have the competences to make a difference. Hence, their skills-set is what makes them relevant to their respective countries and the continent and it is their main weapon and bargaining chip for sustainable development of Africa.

It is therefore believed and expected that FAEO, during this term of Eng. KAZAWADI Papias Dedeki from Rwanda, as FAEO President, more actionable initiatives at the continental level will happen towards implementation of the AfCFTA strategy in fulfilment of, among others, the recent resolutions made during the 8th African Engineering Week and 6th African Engineering Conference that was held under the theme **"Accelerating Sustainable Infrastructure Development in Africa Together"** at the Science Museum, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from November 7-11, 2022.

Hence FAEO is desirous of engagements to uniquely participate, through the support of Rwanda Government, in among others:

- Addressing Resource Needs for Infrastructure Development in Africa;
- Developing Regulated Environment in the Practice of Engineering Capacity Building for Quality Engineering Services;
- Developing Mobility framework through harmonized standards and the need of mobilizing African Engineering regulatory bodies to work on framework for mutual recognition of engineering credentials;
- Participating in AfCFTA frameworks in response to aligning Engineering Services delivery and Skills Development to local needs in order to build a sustainable ecosystem in Africa for Africans;
- Participation to accelerate the implementation of AfCFTA strategy.
- Promoting Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) in the engineering profession which is essential for sustainable infrastructural development.

It is within this context and background that the Presidential Inauguration Conference will be held under the theme of ***"Unleashing Opportunities in the AfCFTA Implementation"***.

Background & Justification

WHEREAS, the Africa Engineering Week and Conference, hosted by the FAEO and Ethiopian Association of Civil Engineers (EACE), partnering with WFEO & UNESCO held in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia** from the 7th to 11th November 2022, under the theme **"Accelerating Sustainable Infrastructure Development in Africa Together"**,

AGAIN, the World Federation of Engineering Organisations Committee on Engineering Capacity Building (WFEO-CECB), Africa Asia Pacific Accord (AAP), and Zimbabwe Institution of Engineering (ZIE) Biennial Conference held in **Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe** from the 15th to the 19th of August 2022, under the theme: **"Engineering the Future through Capacity Building, Partnerships, Innovative Infrastructure and Quality Engineering Education"**.

NOTING THAT, these seminary conferences discussed diverse and cross cutting topics, that inform policies, strategies and harmonized implementation frameworks for Africa and the rest of the World; the FAEO Board has resolved to hold the 2023 FAEO Engineering Policy and Presidential Inauguration Conference in Kigali, Rwanda on the 27th of January 2023, after which the participants;

REITERATED THAT, without engineering capabilities it is impossible to achieve the AfCFTA, SDGs, AU Agenda 2063, and other developmental aspirations in Africa. Engineering is key to economic development and the attainment of the Africa we want. Hence:

- **OBSERVING THAT;** Engineering for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) sees a world where engineers contribute to ensuring that all people have access to the services and resources necessary to live healthy, fulfilling lives in dignity and at peace, while working to preserve the global environment. Meeting the SDGs by 2030 and any development goals beyond that date is impossible without the mobilization and full input of the engineering professionals at all levels.
- Establishing and strengthening linkages and partnerships for research and training in Africa and the rest of the World requires collaboration between our governments, professional engineering

institutions and their regulators, engineering education organisations, higher education institutions and engineering related industries.

Specific Objectives

Specific objectives of this Presidential Inauguration Conference are:

- To undertake the investiture of the 6th FAEO President;
- To align FAEO priorities to that of the AfCFTA for the Africa we want;
- To showcase the potential of FAEO to contribute to the development of regulatory frameworks for implementation of Africa's Agenda 2063 and SDGs;
- To focus on practical regulatory framework, benchmarked on international best practices, standards, including mutual recognition and accreditation for engineering services and professionals' mobility within AfCFTA;
- To develop framework to enhance intra-African trade by grooming and growing our own indigenous companies for sustainable infrastructure development;
- To develop framework to promoting awareness and dissemination of engineering skills at country and continental levels;
- To develop framework for Accreditation Policy and Procedures Manuals for Outcome Based Education, Professional Development and Competences Programs to be implemented at national levels;
- To develop framework to encourage the participation of females in the engineering sector and promote the collection of engineering data and particularly gender disaggregated data by relevant engineering institutions to benchmark, monitor targets and guide policy formulation appropriately.

Expected outputs

The expected outputs from the Presidential Inauguration Conference are:

- The sharing of engineering best practices among participants to accelerate infrastructure development within AfCFTA;
- Recognition of FAEO as a reliable source of intellectual capital for technologically skilled engineering professionals, who can contribute to stronger labor market for Africa;
- Understanding of benefits to accelerate, groom and grow indigenous companies and individuals through private sector, in developing homegrown solutions and Export of Services within AfCFTA.

Format

With the support from the Government of Rwanda, through the Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MINICOM), this event will be held on 27th January 2023 at the renowned Kigali Convention Centre in Rwanda, bringing together about 120 delegates from Rwanda and other countries in Africa. Furthermore, the expected participants are Africa's present and past leaders of Professional Engineering Institutions/Organisations, Experts in various engineering fields, Development Partners, Policy Makers and Politicians.

Interactive Discussions:

Discussions will be stimulated by keynote speakers under the theme **“UNLEASHING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AfCFTA IMPLEMENTATION,”** seeking to create momentum and impetus to participants in order to motivate fruitful discussions for better resolutions, directed to the Africa We Want. Notable addresses will be delivered by the following during the event:

- **Address by the Guest of Honour** from the Government of Rwanda.
- **Address from AfCFTA** on role of Engineering in trade facilitation.
- **Ing. Dr. Boakye Kwame**, Past President of Ghana Institution of Engineering (GhIE) and current Chairman of Ghana Engineering Council.
Topic: "AfCFTA is going nowhere without Engineering".
- **Prof. Dr. Amon Murwira**, Minister of Higher Education & Tertiary Education Innovation, Science and Technology Development in Zimbabwe.
Topic: "Heritage based Education 5.0 - Design for Industrialization and Modernization".
- **H.E. Eng. Dr. Abarham Belay**, Minister of Defence of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
Topic: "Infrastructure Development in Africa - A case of Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam".

Expected Outcomes

The Expected outcomes of the 6th Presidential Inauguration and Conference are:

- Formal undertaking of office of the 6th FAEO President.
- Recommendations by engineering fraternity leaders and policy makers on appropriate plan of action for the Africa We Want.
- Strengthened collaborative network and partnership between FAEO, AU, AfCFTA and Rwanda Government.
- Framework to ensure consistent discipline and emphasis on meritocracy, pragmatism, ethics and honesty throughout professional career.
- Resolutions supported by policy makers and politicians for implementation at national and regional levels by FAEO.
- A strategy to develop and promote sustainable indigenous and local content facility in infrastructure development in Africa.

Focal Points

For any further inquiries on participation, partnership or sponsorship please contact any of the following:

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