



World Federation of Engineering Organizations  
Fédération Mondiale des Organisations d'Ingénieurs

**WFEO COP-21 Engineers Climate Change Summit**  
**Opening Remarks by WFEO President Engr. Jorge Spitalnik**  
**Paris, 08 December 2015**

I am very pleased to welcome to this WFEO side-event of COP21 the distinguished colleagues of Ingénieurs et Scientifiques de France as well as the members of UNESCO and of the WFEO Organizing Committee, the prominent speakers and guests, and the leading representatives of governments and NGOs attending COP21.

WFEO is the Federation of Engineers of the World, gathering the National Associations of Engineering Societies of more than 85 countries and of 10 International Engineering Societies from different regions of the world. WFEO was founded in 1968 under the auspices of UNESCO and represents nowadays about 20 million engineers. In the last decade, WFEO has been very active in UN debates related to sustainable development and resilience to the effects of climate change. As a member of the Major Group of Civil Society called Scientific and Technological Communities, it represents the Engineering and Technological views of the Group. The other two members are ICSU and ICSS who represent the natural sciences and social sciences communities.

Working at the representation of the Engineering and Technological Communities, we were able to establish in the UN Commission for Sustainable Development that scientifically sound and thoroughly engineered solutions, based on scientific knowledge of laws of Nature and the state of the art of engineering and technology, are the only way to address the issues of sustainability. The WFEO positions were endorsed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon's when he presented his vision for "Sustainable Energy for All" stating that "all energy sources and technologies have roles to play in achieving universal access in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable fashion". Also, they were used at the Rio+20 Summit by representatives of some governments, stating that policies for a successful sustainable development ought to be founded on sound and evidence based options.

WFEO has established and assured its worldwide international presence by actively engaging in programs for sustainable development, climate change, and disaster risk reduction, with UN agencies and other intergovernmental organizations. Nowadays, WFEO is recognized as a NGO valued partner by ECOSOC - UN Economic and

Social Council, UNDESA - UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP – UN Development Programme, UNESCO – UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNIDO – UN Industrial Development Organization, UNEP – UN Environment Programme, UNFCCC – UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNISDR – UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, IAEA – International Atomic Energy Agency and WMO – World Meteorological Organization, among the UN family, and by intergovernmental and international organizations like The World Bank, OECD – Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, IEA – International Engineering Alliance and ISO – International Organization for Standardization.

We have achieved a status in which WFEO is being recognized by governments, intergovernmental organizations, international NGOs and the public in general as a respected and reliable source of advice and guidance on improvement of policies for human wellbeing and environment management. As an example of our actions, we have just concluded our World Engineering Conference and Convention that took place in Kyoto, Japan, and approved the text of the Kyoto Declaration which states, among other, that

1. Substantial technological improvements as well as sound, evidence based policies are needed to assure access to fresh and safe drinking water, energy, sanitation and waste management, communications, shelter, and transport services in communities.
2. By exchanging and applying scientific knowledge, engineering creativity and practice, and up-to-date technology, engineers are able to substantially introduce sustainable solutions into most areas of activity that contribute to a society's quality life.
3. Engineering must intensely apply its proficiency to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in numerous fields including development of diversified energy sources, power generation technology, energy usage technology, and energy conservation technology.
4. In order to mitigate the effects of natural disasters, Engineering has to implement measures to protect infrastructure with the most resilient technologies.
5. Engineers must carry out their work providing for the enhancement of the life conditions of society, focusing their activities on the creation of a prosperous and safe society.

I wish you all successful and productive results on the subjects to be discussed in this event. Many thanks for your kind attention.