



**WFEO Model Code of Practice  
for Sustainable Development and Environmental Stewardship**

**Speaking Notes - April 2014**

Background on WFEO

- International non-government organization for the world engineering profession
- National engineering organizations from over 90 countries and international organizations
- More than 15 million engineers working worldwide
- Focus on supporting the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and new Sustainable Development Goals
- Nine standing committees including Engineering and the Environment, Education, Energy, Disaster Risk Management, Capacity-Building, Anti-Corruption, Information and Communications Technologies, Innovation, Youth, Women
- Active participant in UNFCCC and UN-CSD

Purpose and Objective of Code

- To provide objective guidance to individual engineers on responsible engineering practice
- To provide a policy and implementing document to WFEO and its membership to use within their own organizations and countries
- To inform United Nations organizations and International Financial Institutions of the role, responsibility and practices of engineers
- To increase the profile and authority of WFEO in these subject areas

What is a “Model Code”

- First, Adopted as WFEO policy, not legally or morally binding on members
- Second, Adoption by WFEO members may be done in one of three ways:
  - Adopt as written – put your logo on the top and use in your own jurisdiction/membership
  - Adopt with modifications to suit individual circumstances and jurisdictions
  - Use as a source document to develop your own country-specific guidance



## Scope of the Code

- Principles and framework to guide engineering practice that serves the public interest
- What to consider/do and less on the “how”
- Active language
- Technical details and methods on how to implement are largely left to the engineer and reflect the individual circumstances of the project or tasks he/she is undertaking

## Structure of Code Document

- One-page listing of ten principles e.g. “mount on the wall” beside Code of Ethics
- Interpretive Guide accompanying the code of practice
- Guide provides further amplification and explanation on the ten principles
- Target audiences – individual engineers and national engineering organizations

## The Ten Principles – Topics Covered

- ✓ Maintaining competency
- ✓ Seeking expertise and advice outside of your competency
- ✓ Defining and addressing economic, social and environmental issues, concerns and impacts
- ✓ Considering the complete life cycle of projects
- ✓ Awareness of and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements
- ✓ Seeking and implementing innovative methods and technologies
- ✓ Consultation and appropriate communication with internal and external stakeholders e.g. the public
- ✓ Disclosure of information necessary to ensure safety of the public
- ✓ Mitigating impacts in advance of complete scientific knowledge if risks are determined to be unacceptable

## Implementation Plan

- Target audiences include engineers, policy-makers and decision-makers
- Key targets will be UN agencies and International Financial Institutions

## **Completed as of April 2014**

- Publish on the WFEO website with President’s message
- Prepare a letter of transmittal for signature by the President
- Formal distribution to WFEO national and international members through Headquarters



## **In Progress**

- Formal submission to the United Nations, UNESCO, OECD, FIDIC by Headquarters

## **Planned and Ongoing**

- Develop on-line webinars, presentations, workshops and seminars for events in 2014 and 2015 to key target audiences and key sectors
- Support adoption/implementation by WFEO national and international members
- Complete initial implementation and dissemination by December 2015
- Deliver progress report at 2015 General Assembly