



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

World Federation of Engineering Organizations COP-21 Engineering Summit on Climate Change

December 8, 2015 – Paris France

Paris 2015 Statement:

“Engineers and Engineering

Turning the Words of the COP-21 Agreement into Climate Action”

Preamble

The World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) held a Summit on Climate Change on December 8, 2015 in Paris France. The overall theme was “Engineering: Turning Words into Action – A Sectoral Approach.” The program focused on three sectors that are impacted by climate now and in the future. These sectors provide concrete examples of how engineers can and will engage across the broad spectrum of societal needs as part of their intrinsic role to serve the public interest. The engineering profession is committed to do its part to implement the provisions of the upcoming climate agreement to the betterment of society in the developing and developed world.

The one-day Summit was held in conjunction with the convening of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties Meeting 21 (COP-21) which intends to sign an international agreement to limit the growth of GHG emissions as well as provide the framework to institute adaptation measures to reduce the impacts of our changing climate.

Background

The WFEO consists of national members representing more than 85 countries as well as 10 regional engineering organizations. These members collectively engage with more than 20 million engineers worldwide who are committed to serve the public interest through Codes of Practice and a Code of Ethics that emphasize professional practice in sustainable development, environmental stewardship and climate change.

WFEO, the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) are co-organizing partners of the UN Major Group on Scientific and Technological Communities, one of the nine major groups of civil society recognized by the United Nations.

Engineers acknowledge that climate change is underway and that sustained efforts must be undertaken to address this worldwide challenge to society, our quality of life and prosperity. Urgent actions are required and the engineering profession is prepared to do its part towards implementing cost-effective, feasible and sustainable solutions working in partnership with stakeholders.

Addressing climate change and sustainable development requires innovative engineering that meets the needs of society now and in the future. The scale and complexity of engineering works and their management require improved communications between the engineering profession and the public. The engineering profession must play its role in ensuring the public understands the risks and benefits of the technological innovation necessary to support measures to address climate change and achieve sustainable development.

Our Commitment

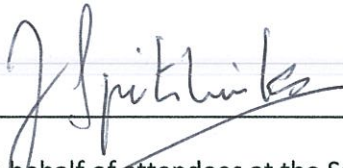
We will engage through the implementation of innovative technologies and cost-effective, feasible solutions based on sound engineering criteria and scientifically defensible climate projections. These actions will aim to reduce the rate and magnitude of climate change as well as address its inevitable impacts on society and its quality of life. These actions will contribute to achieving a great number of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and their associated targets.

The WFEO and its national and international members commit to the following outcomes:

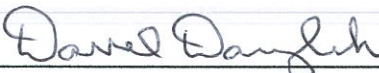
1. Reducing GHG emissions within and across sectors through regionally and locally based actions.
2. Improving the climate resilience of various types of infrastructure to resist climate impacts and increase reliability and service life in an era of changing climate and more extreme weather events.
3. Achieving the engineering challenges of sustainable development and meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals which are inseparable.
4. Supporting the COP-21 Climate Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with innovative engineering practices and technologies.
5. Building engineering capacity and gender balance worldwide to address the implementation of the COP-21 consensus.

In collaboration with our partners in the UN Major Group on Scientific and Technological Communities, amongst others, we can achieve these outcomes by using measures and tools such as systems thinking; development of international standards and codes of practice; undertaking climate risk assessments as part of normal practice, and inclusion of environment, social and economic impacts.

Signed in Paris, France on December 8, 2015



On behalf of attendees at the Summit
J. (Jorge) Spitalnik, President WFEO



On behalf of attendees at the Summit
D. (Darrel) Danyluk, Summit Chair