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## Memorandum

**From :** Dirk F. Dauw (DFD)

**Date of Meeting:** February 15, 2018

**Date of Report:** February 20, 2018

**Subject :** WFEO representation during the Bi-Annual UNOG Director-General's briefing meeting with NGO's & remarks, Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XII, February 15, 2018

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The meeting was addressed to the ONG representatives who attended the meeting. It lasted for 2 hours and was focused on the actions undertaken since the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres took office on 1st January the 1 st, 2017. After the presentatipon, a limited number of questions were addressed by the audience to the Under-Secretary-General, Director-General whom replied.

As WFEO representative, I had the opportunity to phrase my question and concern as well.

**1. Summary of the actions undertaken:**

Most of the comments delivered concerned issues to improve the operational efficiency within the UN:

- Create more project flexibility; make the decision making process more easy.
- More flexibility in the local field project organization.
- Improve the UN communication and meditation of the organization.

cf. : [remarks of Mr .Michael Møller](#)

**2. Some questions phrased by ONG's present:**

Among the questions raised, few concerned the WFEO. e.g.:

- A proposal to change the name of the United Nations...
- What is the impact of new technologies on overall security systems.
- UN policy related the Palestinian peace problem.
- How can civic societies better influence UN policy?

And many more. The Director General replied to the listed questions.

**3. Question phrased by the WFEO representative (DFD):**

"Mister Director General, I am named Dirk F. Dauw and am the representative of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) for the Geneva office of the United Nations.

WFEO serves society and is recognized as a respectable and valuable source of advice and



guidance on the policies, interests and concerns that relate to engineering and technology. The role and responsibility of engineers in addressing the challenges facing society is more and more recognized and acknowledged worldwide.

The World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) is the sole Body representing the engineering profession of all kind and disciplines at World Level.

On behalf of the WFEO, I do acknowledge and thank you, Mr. Director General, for the information received today as well for the answers formulated by you. Let me focus on a particular subject that is of concern for today's society, because it is related to a multi cross technology evolution and multi-disciplinary of information technology, artificial intelligence, neurology, psychiatry, psychology, micro engineering and sociology. This development currently underway will definitely influence the human being in the next decades. It is called "**Transhumanism**".

Transhumanism is an international intellectual movement that aims to transform the human condition by developing sophisticated technologies to enhance the human intellect as well as its physiology. The merge of multiple disciplines and technologies is complex and will have an impact on society, ethics and behavior. Engineers are deeply involved in this movement as well.

Would you please comment Mister Director General how the United Nations is looking into this matter, in particular, the social side effects that this might generate for humanity.

Answer from the Director General: The UN is aware of this trend, but we notice that often technology is ahead and develops very rapidly versus legislation. The ONG's that are linked to the UN have an important role to play, by launching initiatives that might be supported by the UN. It is recommended that ONG's create a working group among them that could be supported by the UN in the framework of sustainable development projects currently underway.

**4. List of Contacts Made to start setting up of a working team on Transhumanism: in addition to me:**

Name	Organization/Position	Country	Phone/Email	Comments
Mr. Hisashi Saito	iuventum	Switzerland	hisashisaito@iuventum.org	Interested
Mr. Lorenz Bräker	Int. Union of Architects, SIA FSAI VISARTE, 1 st President	Switzerland	l.braeker@uia-architectes.org	Interested
Prof. Francis Michot	Professeur des Universités, Chirurgie Digestive, Membre de l'Académie de Médecin, France	Switzerland	francis.michot@sunrise.ch	Interested

On behalf of WFEO

Dr. Dirk F. Dauw