



PERSONAL STATEMENT - FERNANDO DE ALMEIDA SANTOS

FOR THE POSITION OF NATIONAL MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE

The 21st century presents humanity with profound challenges and unprecedented opportunities. Issues such as climate change, environmental degradation, urbanization, and resource depletion demand urgent action and innovative solutions. At the same time, a significant portion of the global population still lacks access to basic infrastructure, clean water, sanitation, and energy. These disparities emphasize the critical need for engineers to lead the way in creating sustainable, inclusive, and resilient societies.



As President of the Portuguese Engineers Association (Ordem dos Engenheiros) and with a career spanning over three decades, I am deeply committed to advancing the engineering profession as a cornerstone of socio-economic development and environmental sustainability. Throughout my professional journey, I have witnessed the transformative impact of engineering on communities, industries, and nations. I have dedicated my career to fostering excellence in engineering, from my leadership roles in the Ordem dos Engenheiros to my contributions as an academic, entrepreneur, and advocate for engineering education and innovation.

The World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) has a pivotal role in addressing the global challenges we face. As a unifying voice for engineers worldwide, WFEO must lead efforts to build engineering capacity, enhance the profession's visibility, and contribute meaningfully to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This requires fostering collaboration among governments, academia, and industry to create region-specific responses that empower communities and drive sustainable development.

I bring to this nomination a strong background in engineering leadership and international collaboration. Having served in elected positions within the Ordem dos Engenheiros for over 28 years, including as its current President, I have consistently championed initiatives that promote engineering excellence, professional mobility, and sustainable practices. My professional experience as the founder and CEO of a prominent engineering firm, my academic contributions as a visiting lecturer, and my leadership roles in engineering organizations have provided me with a unique perspective on the intersection of technology, policy, and society.

As WFEO National Member Representative, I would leverage this extensive experience to advance WFEO's mission and priorities. I firmly believe that engineering must be at the forefront of global efforts to combat climate change, promote clean and efficient energy, ensure water and food security, and build resilient infrastructure. It is equally vital to address the persistent inequalities in access to technology and engineering education, ensuring no one is left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development.

In alignment with WFEO's vision, I am committed to driving initiatives that enhance engineering education, foster professional development, and promote gender equality and diversity within the profession. I will actively support WFEO's Engineering 2030 Plan, recognizing its strategic importance in achieving the SDGs.

The engineering profession has always been a catalyst for progress. As a candidate for this position, I stand ready to contribute my expertise, passion, and leadership to ensure that WFEO continues to be a driving force for a sustainable, inclusive, and innovative world.

Fernando de Almeida Santos

PRESIDENT OF THE PORTUGUESE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION



ORDEM
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QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Fernando de Almeida Santos, the President (Bastonário) of the Portuguese Engineers Association (Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal, OEP), is a highly distinguished Civil Engineer with a career spanning over 30 years.

His extensive experience and exemplary service to the engineering profession, both nationally and internationally, make him an exceptional **candidate for the position of WFEO National Member Representative**.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Fernando de Almeida Santos is a Civil Engineer, Senior Member, and Specialist in Construction Safety, recognized by the Portuguese Engineers Association. His academic and professional achievements include:

- **Degree in Civil Engineering (1991)** - University of Minho (UMinho);
- **Medal of Honor from UMinho (1991)** - Recognized for his role as Vice-President of the Academic Association of UMinho (1988-1991);
- **MBA in Construction and Real Estate Management (2000)** - Joint program from UMinho, the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto (FEUP), and the Catholic University of Portugal;
- **Specialization in Construction Safety Management and Coordination (2001)** - Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), Lisbon;
- **High Business Leadership Program (PADE, 2009)** - AESE Business School in Lisbon;
- **Award-Winning Engineer** - Recipient of the 1st National Prize Agostinho Roseta from the Portuguese Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity (MTSS) in 2004;
- **Career Alumni Award (2018)** - Honored by UMinho for his outstanding contributions to the engineering field;
- **Medal of Honor (2023)** - Awarded by the Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos (CICCP) of Spain for his contributions to civil engineering.

Professionally, Fernando de Almeida Santos has held notable positions:

- **Founder and President of TABIQUE (2000–2020)** - A leading engineering firm specializing in project management, supervision, and safety coordination. He currently serves as a Non-Executive Administrator;
- **Senior Engineer at ENGIL (1991–2000)** - Held various roles in Planning, Cost Control, Project Management, and Construction Safety;
- **Visiting Lecturer (2003–2018)** - Taught courses in Construction Management at UMinho, FEUP, IST (FUNDEC), and the Polytechnic Institute of Cávado and Ave (IPCA).

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SERVICE TO THE PORTUGUESE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

Fernando de Almeida Santos has devoted **28 years to the Portuguese Engineers Association** in various elected leadership roles, including:

- **President (Bastonário) of the Portuguese Engineers Association (2022–2025);**
- **National Vice-President (2016–2022);**
- **President of the Northern Regional Board (2010–2016);**
- **Secretary of the Northern Regional Board (2004–2010);**
- **District Delegate for Braga (2001–2004);**
- **Deputy District Delegate for Braga (1997–2001).**

This extensive trajectory of service has culminated in his **unopposed candidacy for the presidency of the Portuguese Engineers Association for the 2025–2028 term**, reflecting the trust and respect he commands within the engineering community.

OTHER LEADERSHIP ROLES

In addition to his professional and institutional contributions, Eng. Fernando de Almeida Santos holds or has held several prominent positions:

- **Member of the General Council of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa (2024–2026);**
- **Administrator of the Fundação da Construção (2024–2027):** Representing the Portuguese Engineers Association;
- **President of the Association of UMinho Alumni (1994–1996).**
- **Organizer of LISBONCES 2019 – Lisbon Civil Engineering Summit, which brought together the annual international assemblies of the World Council of Civil Engineers, European Council of Civil Engineers, European Council of Engineers Chambers, and the Engineering Association of Mediterranean Countries;**
- **Secretary-General of the CECPC (2013–2021) – Council of Professional Associations of Civil Engineers from Portuguese- and Spanish-Speaking Countries;**
- **Founder and Vice-President of the International Council of Portuguese-Speaking Engineers (since 2023);**
- **Organizer of the WORLD ENGINEERING DAY for the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, held in Lisbon in 2024.**

COMMITMENT TO WFEO

As a highly respected figure in the engineering profession, Eng. Fernando de Almeida Santos brings unmatched qualifications, leadership experience, and a collaborative spirit to his candidacy for WFEO National Member Representative. His dedication to fostering international cooperation and promoting the engineering profession globally aligns with WFEO's mission and objectives, making him an ideal candidate for this prestigious role.