

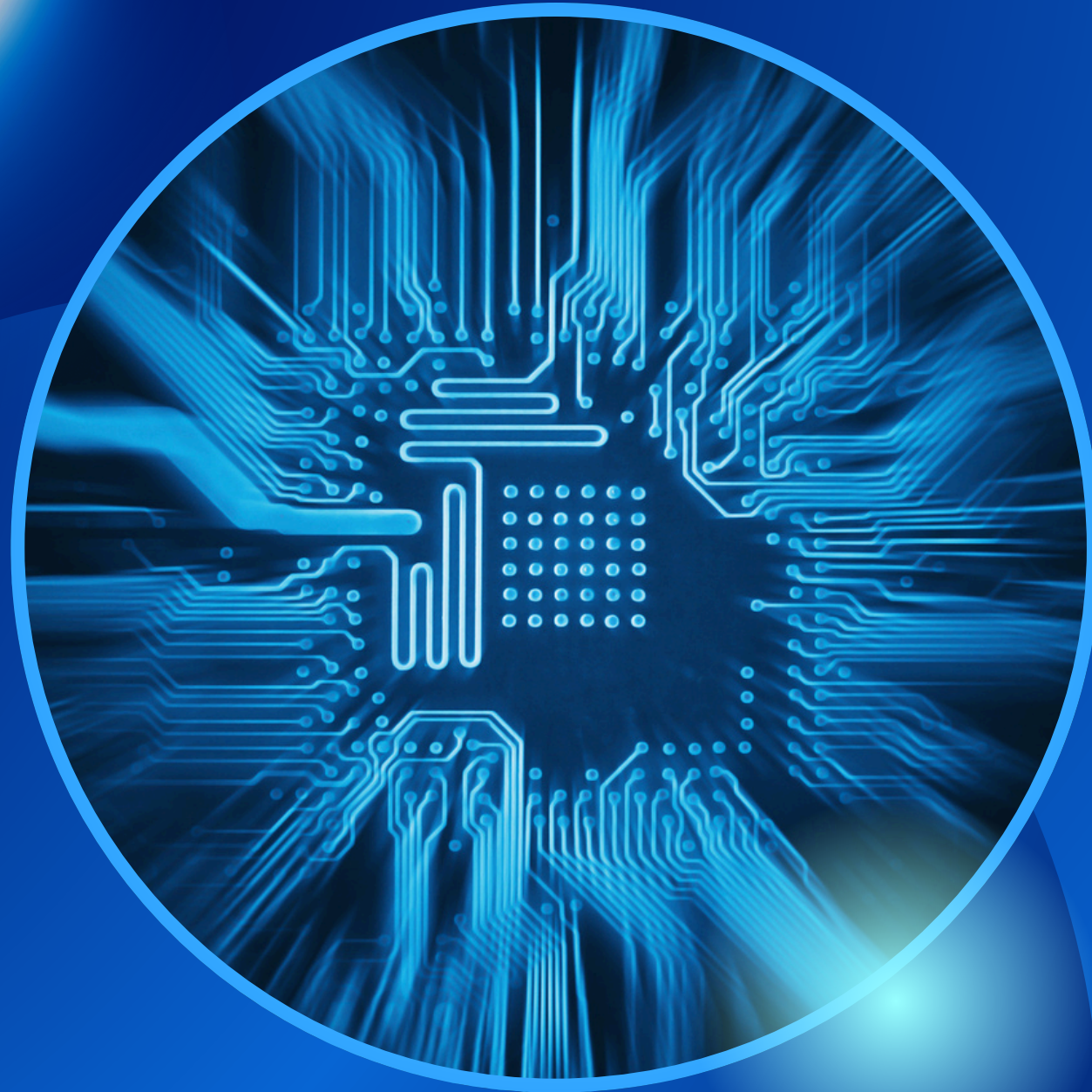


World Federation of Engineering Organizations

WFEO PRESIDENT STATEMENT TO UNESCO INFORMATION SESSION ON **ENGINEERING AND INNOVATION**

3 FEBRUARY 2026

UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, PARIS



World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) Mandate

- Created under the auspices of UNESCO in 1968
- Today represents more than 100 countries
- Over 30 million engineers worldwide
- Associate Non-Governmental Organization
- Official partnership with UNESCO
- Liaison status to ECOSOC
- Work with a number of UN agencies, including the UN Universities

WFEO's Strategic Objectives (2026 - 2035)

Our strategic framework is built on five (5) objectives aligned with the UNESCO's approach:



**Strengthen
engineering's role
in sustainable
development and
global policy**



**Advance
engineering
education and
capacity
building**



**Promote
ethical,
inclusive and
responsible
engineering**



**Promote global
awareness of
engineering for
sustainable
development**



**Enhance WFEO's
resilience and
effectiveness,
strengthen
governance...**

Why Engineering Matters?

IT MATTERS BECAUSE:

- At the heart of sustainable development and of our daily lives;
- Design and build infrastructures and technologies:
 - water systems,
 - renewable energy,
 - digital connectivity and climate infrastructure,
 - product and innovation in our daily lives have been designed and developed by engineers;
- Translate scientific knowledge into practical solutions;





World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development (WED)



Since 2019, WFEO celebrates World Engineering Day (WED) on 4 March in a WFEO Members country.

The Partners

National member,
PII and UNESCO

The Theme: SDG9

“SMART Engineering for a
Sustainable Future Through
Innovation and Digitalization”

The Event

Space where engineers
and policymakers co-
design solutions

The Message

Invite UNESCO Member
States to encourage
participation

2026 WFE0 Hackathon

Linked directly to WED 2026, the WFE0 Hackthon is our flagship youth engagement initiative.

**270
Teams:**

Of engineering students and young engineers from around the world compete virtually to design creative, practical solutions to real-world problems.

**3
Challenges:**

Tracks are aligned with SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities; SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production; and SDGs 14 and 15 on life below water and life on land.

**WFE0
Hackathon:**

Views this hackthon as a concrete mechanism to engage the next generation in the SDGs, to develop their innovation and digital skills, and to amplify the visibility of youth-led solutions from all regions, including Africa and the SIDS.

**Member
States
Action:**

WFE0 encourages Member States to promote participation from universities and engineering schools and to recognize winning teams from their countries.



The Third UNESCO Global Engineering Report

A major expression of WFEO's partnership with UNESCO is our substantive contribution to the UNESCO Global Engineering Reports.

01

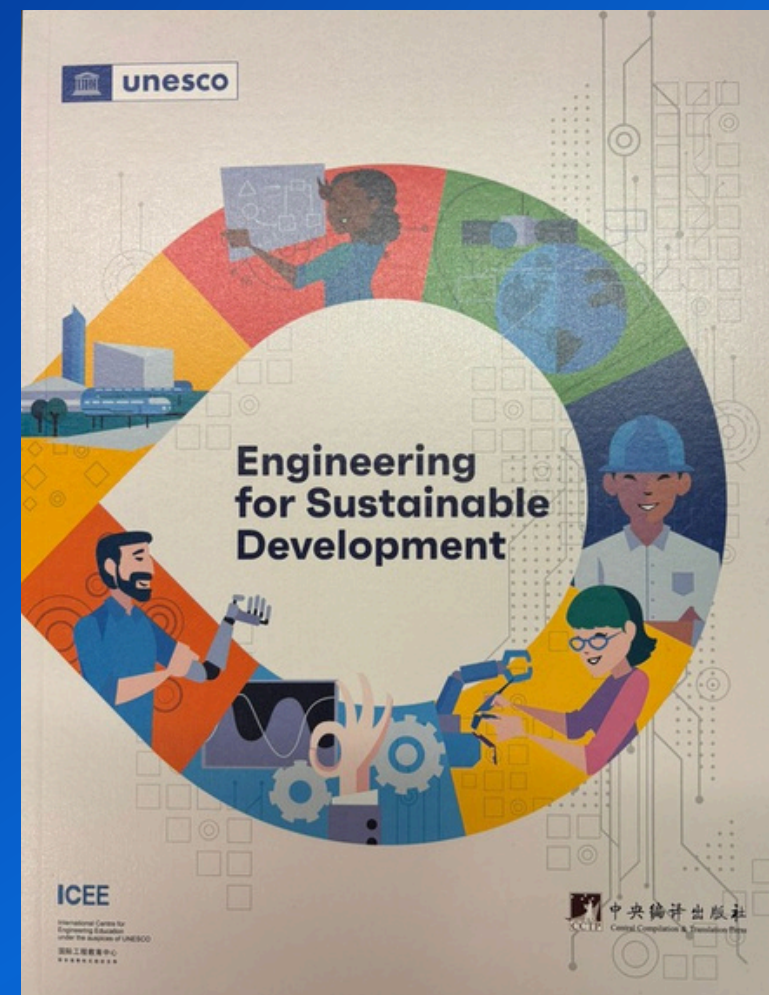
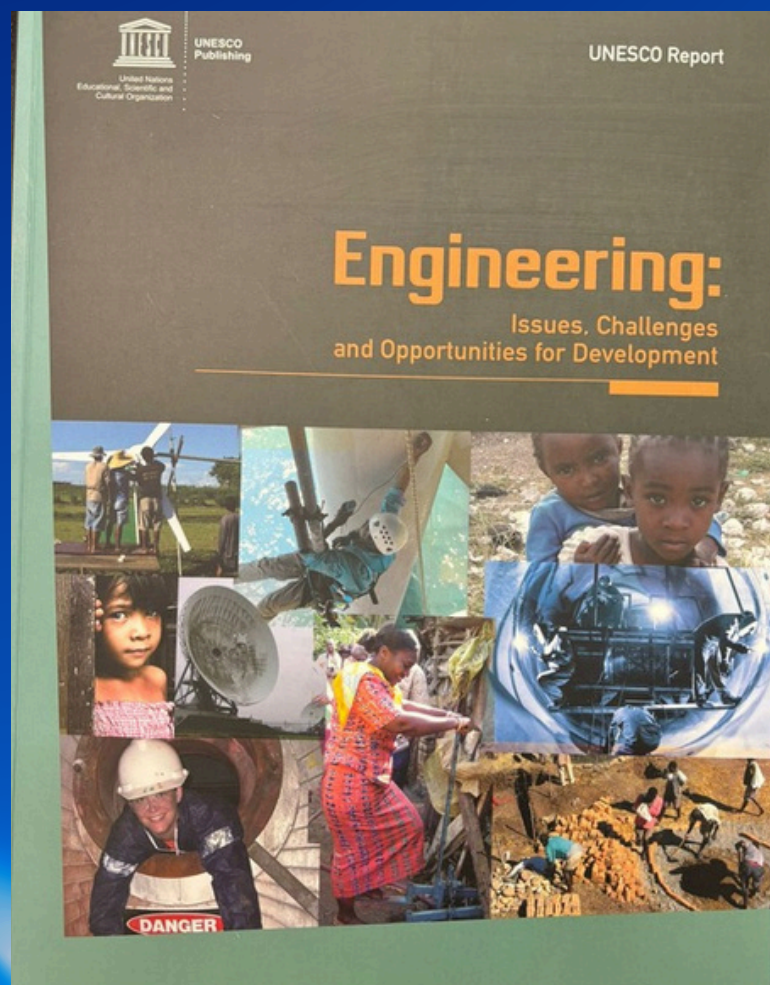
WFEO is eager to work hand in hand with UNESCO on the 3rd Global Engineering Report.

02

This new edition will assess progress since 2021 in aligning engineering with SDGs, identify trends and challenges and provide robust data and policy guidance.

03

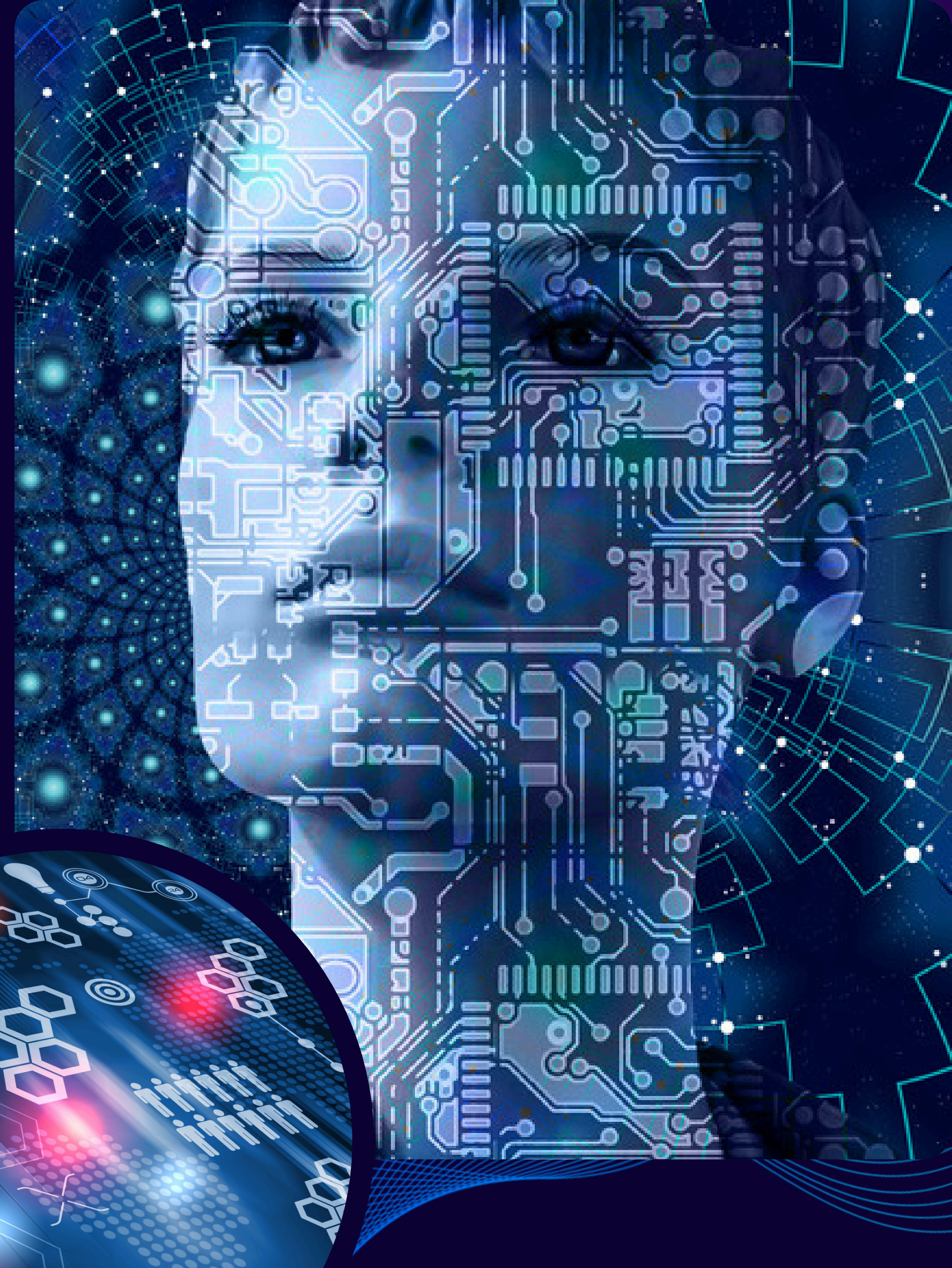
WFEO stands ready to mobilize its member organizations, committees, working groups and regional partners to contribute data, case studies and experts' insights.



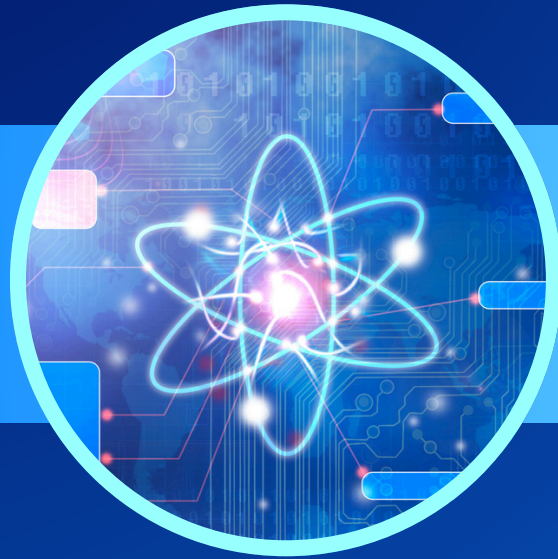
Capacity Building: Africa and Women in Engineering

To realize engineering's full potential for sustainable development, critical capacity gaps must be addressed, particularly regarding women in engineering and Africa.

- **The 2021 report documented under-representation of women in engineering education and practice.**
- **In response, WFE0 launched the Engineering Capacity Building for Africa Programme (ECBAP).**
- **WFE0 commits to working with UNESCO and its Member States to expand opportunities for women in engineering.**



Policy Offer to UNESCO and Member States



Integrating Engineering Systematically



Supporting Frameworks



Facilitating Partnerships

Translating these commitments into concrete contributions to sustainable development by mobilizing our global community of experts, – including the Fellows and Distinguished Fellows of the **World Academy of Engineering**.

Evolving the WFEO Academy into a **WFEO Institute** that will not only deliver training and capacity-building programmes, but also support certification-related activities in collaboration with engineering universities

Conclusion

- Reaffirm WFEO's unwavering commitment to UNESCO, to the Natural Sciences Sector and to the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development.
- WFEO's joint action with UNESCO.
 - Our Standing Technical Committee (STC) on Disaster Risk Management is collaborating with UNESCO's disaster risk reduction team on the use of artificial intelligence for disaster risk management.
 - Our Standing Technical Committee (STC) on Water is also preparing, together with UNESCO, a new publication entitled « New Water: Engineering and Integrated Resource Management », building on our recent report on engineering, groundwater and integrated water resources management.
- WFEO's commitment to being a strategic bridge and a catalyst.
 - Deepen our joint efforts with UNESCO on the third UNESCO Global Engineering Report.



THANK YOU!

