

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY
AND
THE WORLD FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING ORGANIZATIONS**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”) is made by and between:

- (1) **The United Nations University** (“UNU”), having its main office at 5–53–70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925, Japan,

AND

- (2) **The World Federation of Engineering Organizations** (“WFEO”), having its main office at Maison de l’UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75015 Paris, France.

(Hereinafter UNU and WFEO are each referred to as a “Party” and collectively, “the Parties”.)

WHEREAS UNU is a global think tank and postgraduate teaching organisation with a mandate to contribute, through collaborative research and education, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States;

WHEREAS WFEO is the global organization for the engineering profession and cooperates with national and other international professional institutions to lead the development and application of engineering to constructively resolve international and national issues for the benefit of humanity. WFEO’S global network and expertise is a key channel for disseminating educational content and research outcomes. Founded in 1968, under the auspices of UNESCO, WFEO brings together national engineering institutions from approximately 100 countries and represents more than 30 million engineers;

CONSIDERING that the Parties share substantial areas of common interest in policy-relevant research that advances work on artificial intelligence, digital and innovative technologies, training and continuing education, the interface between social sciences and engineering and a systemic approach to technology and innovation, with a shared focus on capacity building and inclusion, particularly in the Global South;

AWARE of the benefits that would flow from closer cooperation between the Parties in terms of increased impact and effectiveness of their respective programmes and the faster attainment of their common objectives; and

DESIROUS of enhancing coordination of their work and strengthening cooperation on programmes and projects that promote policy and practice-relevant research impacting the work of WFEO as well

as of the United Nations at national, regional, and global levels, especially in the fields of technology, innovation, and sustainable development.

THE PARTIES HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. OBJECTIVE OF COOPERATION

1.1 With a view to facilitating the effective achievement of their respective objectives and functions, the Parties agree to act in close cooperation with each other in regard to matters of common interest to achieve an effective utilization of existing expertise whenever this may be appropriate in light of their respective mandates. Such areas of common interest may include the following, which may be reviewed from time to time:

- Development and sharing of online educational content (e.g., online courses, webinars, and continuing education programmes) in areas of mutual interest, including AI, digital and innovative technologies, and the intersections of social sciences and engineering. Such sharing may include permission by UNU to provide access to courses and related evaluation tools, available at no cost for either party, via the “WFEO Academy/University”, as mutually agreed upon by the Parties on a case-by-case basis.
- Cooperation between the Parties’ relevant committees and networks (e.g., UNU Global AI Network, Internal UNU AI Working Group, WFEO Committee on Engineering for Innovative Technologies, WFEO Committee on Young Engineers / Future Leaders, etc.).
- Support for youth-focused initiatives such as the WFEO Hackathon, Model United Nations (MUN) activities hosted by UNU, as well as related activities (e.g., “ReModelUN”) undertaken by the UNU Hub on the Future of Learning with Youth.
- Research projects and activities in areas of mutual interest, including the co-development of policy and research briefs on the ethical use of AI in engineering, the development of critical AI literacy in the context of engineering, and the exploration of pathways for integrating AI into engineering ethics.
- Capacity-building programmes and related activities of mutual benefit to both Parties and externally focused activities for impact both for the engineering and the broader scientific community in Paris and abroad.
- Knowledge-exchange engagements including seminars, workshops, and conferences.
- To enhance the visibility and impact of the collaboration, jointly developed materials may be co-branded and distributed, pursuant to the provisions of this MOU, and in particular Clauses 3 and 5.
- Other such activities as may be mutually agreed upon.

1.2 Cooperation may be carried out through joint exchange of ideas, knowledge sharing, research, workshops, conferences, and other modalities as the Parties deem appropriate.

2. METHOD OF COOPERATION

- 2.1 In furtherance of the aforementioned cooperative activities, the Parties shall consult each other, on a regular basis, on issues of common interest including projects, methodologies, training, tools, resource mobilization and other activities; to coordinate their work, strengthen cooperation and synergise efforts. Any exchange of information between the Parties shall be subject to their respective policies and procedures on the disclosure of information.
- 2.2 Each Party may request the cooperation and expertise of the other Party in the implementation of projects or other activities of mutual interest, which will be provided in accordance with the decisions of the concerned Party's governing bodies and applicable regulations and rules. Programmes, projects and activities which are considered appropriate to be conducted jointly will be subject to special arrangements which will define the modalities and costs of the participation of each Party, provided that internal approvals of each Party for such joint activities are obtained.
- 2.3 The Parties, in accordance with the internal decisions of their governing bodies and their applicable regulations and rules, will take the administrative steps required to promote effective collaboration and liaison between their respective organizations.
- 2.4 Nothing in this MOU shall constitute an undertaking by either Party to commit staff or funding to projects or other activities. In any case where the provision of financial and human resources will be required from both or either Party, this shall be agreed in writing by the Parties.

3. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 3.1 Either Party, as the case may be, shall own the intellectual property rights and other proprietary rights in respect of any work or material which was solely and separately developed by that Party.
- 3.2 The ownership of intellectual property rights to work and materials developed jointly by the Parties shall be agreed upon by the Parties in writing on a case by case basis, provided that the Party that is granted ownership shall accord to the other Party, a worldwide, non-exclusive, non-sub-licensable, irrevocable and royalty-free license to use such intellectual property or other proprietary right solely for the purposes of and in accordance with the requirements of this MOU.

4. PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

The Parties shall ensure an appropriate level of protection for Personal Data processed in relation to, or as a result of, this MOU in accordance with their respective regulations, rules, policies, and procedures. "Personal Data" is defined as information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (data subject) that is processed by, or on behalf of, the respective Parties concerned.

5. RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF NAMES AND LOGO

The Parties shall not use any name, emblem, logo, trademark or other sign associated with the other Party without first obtaining the written permission of that other Party to do so. Any such authorized use shall be subject to the respective regulations, rules, policies, and practices of the Parties. Further, this MOU does not grant either Party the right to use the other Party's trademarks, trade names or service marks.

6. CONFIDENTIALITY

Neither Party shall disclose to a third party any information specified by the relevant Party as confidential or information that is not publicly available without the prior written consent of that Party.

7. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

UNU is committed to zero-tolerance of any form of harassment, including sexual harassment, sexual exploitation or abuse, and requires all contracting partners to comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary-General's bulletin [ST/SGB/2003/13](#) of 9 October 2003 concerning "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" and in the [UNU Policy on Prohibited Conduct](#). In particular, WFEO shall take all appropriate measures to prevent and respond to harassment by its employee or any other persons engaged and controlled by WFEO to perform any services under this MOU. The absence of such measures will permit UNU to terminate this MOU with immediate effect.

8. LEGAL STATUS OF THE PARTIES

- 8.1 Nothing in or relating to this MOU shall be construed to create a partnership, a joint venture, an employment or agency relationship between the Parties.
- 8.2 The personnel, representatives, agents or subcontractors of either Party shall not be considered in any respect as being the personnel, representatives, agents or subcontractors of the other Party.
- 8.3 The collaboration between the Parties under this MOU shall be on a non-exclusive basis.

9. TERMINATION OF MOU

Unless otherwise specified in this MOU, either Party may terminate this MOU by giving three (3) months prior written notice. In such circumstances, the Parties shall agree on how to discharge any residual responsibilities.

10. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute, controversy or claim arising under or in connection with this MOU shall be settled by consultation, negotiation, or other agreed mode of settlement between the Parties.

11. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

Nothing in this MOU shall be deemed to be a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations or of the United Nations University ("UNU"), which is an autonomous organ of the General Assembly.

12. SURVIVAL

Each Party's obligations under Clauses 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 and 11 shall survive termination or expiration of this MOU.

13. TERM OF MOU

This MOU shall be valid for a period of five (5) years from the Effective Date of this MOU. The Parties may extend the validity of this MOU prior to the expiration of the validity period upon agreement in writing.

14. AMENDMENT

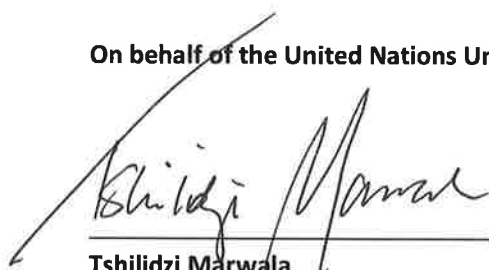
Any amendments to this MOU shall be made in writing signed by both Parties.

15. EFFECTIVE DATE

This MOU shall enter into force upon signature by the duly authorised representative of the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding in the English language.

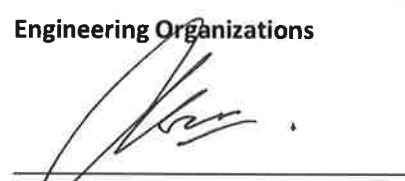
On behalf of the United Nations University



Tshilidzi Marwala
Rector

24 October 2025

On behalf of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations



Dr. Seng-Chuan Tan
President of the WFEO

24 October 2025