



**The Committee on  
Women in Engineering**

## **Declaration**

### **Contributing to Global Sustainable Development**

#### **Women Engineers Making a Difference with Men as Allies:**

#### **“Turning Words into Action”**

##### **Preamble**

Achieving the many targets within the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the goals themselves will require a collaborative, world-wide effort among many stakeholders over the long term. All engineers, working with other practitioners such as planners, accountants, lawyers and architects among many will contribute substantially and implement solutions at regional, country and community levels. These support policies and decision-makers at these levels.

Collectively as engineers we must do this to assure the sustainability of our world and the people that live in it with due regard to environmental stewardship. It is done in the interest of all developing and developed nations and in accordance with our Code of Ethics that requires our profession to meet societal needs first and instructs our behaviour in doing so.

Women in engineering have an important and vital role to assure the meaningful engagement of our collective profession towards achieving the SDGs. Women can and will assume a variety of roles in these efforts, which offer exciting opportunities and new frontiers for professional practice. In this space there are many opportunities for women engineers at all stages of their career including those who re-enter the workforce to resume their engineering careers to

make a difference through meaningful contribution of their knowledge, skills, and passion to make life better for our people and sustain our planet for our children and grandchildren.

Our roles as women are many. But most important is that all of us are engineers first, and we need to work together and with others to meet this challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. There are SDGs, but the roadmap and the journey to get there is a long one, but one that is exciting and motivating for our profession that includes all women working collaboratively and respectfully in teams with men.

### The WFEO-WIE Pledge

In view of the foregoing, the Women in Engineers Standing Committee of the WFEO hereby submit the following declaration for the endorsement of the WFEO General Assembly:

That we will collaborate with our colleagues in other WFEO STCs as well as within our nations and between nations and with fellow practitioners in other professional and scientific fields to make measurable progress on the following SDGs:

- SDG6 - Water and Sanitation
- SDG 7 – Sustainable Energy
- SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 11 - Cities
- SDG 13 – Climate change

We will encourage women engineers in our countries to engage and provide our technical expertise and management skills in collaboration and teamwork with our male colleagues. We will perform roles that include Leadership, Coordination, Team Members, Team Builders and Collaborators.

We will encourage working with all colleagues and with other disciplines since solutions will require a multi-disciplinary and multi-professions approach

We will work at capacity-building for young and mid-career engineering professionals with a focus on women engineers to increase and maintain the cohort of women engineers

We will identify and work with Champions and Role Models to inspire women to join and to continue their practice by fostering and securing opportunities for personal growth and support in this space

Working on these particular goals will contribute indirectly towards other SDGs such as:

SDG 1 – Poverty Reduction

SDG 5 – Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

SDG 8 – Economic growth

Our profession will also set an excellent example towards the achievement of SDG 5 – Gender Equality, leading by example by turning the Words into Action.

We will encourage our male and female peers working in this space to serve as Champions and Role Models to inspire young women and mid-career women to continue or re-enter the profession to make difference in people's lives and quality of life in all countries of the world through our efforts. This is an exciting challenge and one that will need a sustained effort over the long term.

For the 2018 International Women Engineers Day we will find examples of the various roles assumed by women in countries around working regionally, nationally or locally on the above SDGs where engineers will contribute significantly.

Then we will support efforts to build more examples by working on a common theme of the SDGs, a challenge that requires the skills and knowledge of all engineers working with others.

Women need Men as Allies to make this declaration true and achievable. Mutual respect and recognition of our skills and

experience regardless of gender assures that we can make effective contributions to many of the SDGs directly and others indirectly.

Turning Words into Action will make a Difference in our world.

Approved by the General Assembly of the WFEO

This Day the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Spitalnik". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Jorge Spitalnik  
WFEO President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Agberagba". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Valerie Agberagba  
Chair, CWIE