

sia

schweizerischer ingenieur- und architektenverein
société suisse des ingénieurs et des architectes
società svizzera degli ingegneri e degli architetti
swiss society of engineers and architects

SWISS 
ENGINEERING
STV UTS ATS

WFEO National Committee Switzerland

c/o Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA)
Selnaustrasse 16
8001 Zurich
Switzerland

Zurich, September 10, 2025

**HOSTING OF THE WFEO STANDING COMMITTEE ON DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT
(WFEO-CDRM)**

CANDIDATURE OF SWITZERLAND

DRAFT STRATEGIC 4-YEAR-PLAN 2025-2029

Strategic Objectives

The WFEO-CDRM shall support the WFEO and the engineering profession worldwide by:

- Support through engineering, the implementation of the global initiative: Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, four priority areas:
 - Understanding disaster risk;
 - Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
 - Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience;
 - Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- Promote and assist in the achievement of the 2015-2030 U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, with primary focus on the following goals:
 - Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
 - Goal 13 - Climate Action: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
 - Goal 15 - Life on Land: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- Strengthen the committee’s visibility and presence in the public sector, academic institutions, and multilateral organizations.
- Contribute to build the knowledge of disaster risk management practices for engineers and community leaders to increase resilience.

Strategic Actions

The strategic objectives will be reached through the following strategic actions. These actions will have global, regional or national scope. They will be organized within the five CDRM specialized working groups (see Committee structure, below).

- Organize webinars, workshops and round tables to analyse specific issues of the DRM and reach clear outcomes;
- Publish the results, conclusions and recommendations of the activities mentioned above, as outreach material intended to policy makers, community leaders and academic institutions.

WFEO vision

To be the acknowledged global leader of the engineering profession.

WFEO mission

To be the unified voice of the engineering profession in providing strategic engineering guidance to global society for sustainable development.

CDRM vision

To be an international organization to increase the resilience of cities and communities through engineering.

CDRM mission

To promote the culture of resilience and reduce disaster risk through the dissemination of knowledge and engaging in best engineering practices.

WFEO-CDRM 2025-2029

- Ensure and support the active participation of CDRM members in relevant policy and technical forums and committees to provide advice in their field of expertise;
- Organize and execute 6-8 Webinars annually on different DRM topics;
- Publish any publications and an annually activity report.

These actions require some support processes, namely:

- Strengthen communication links with relevant stakeholders to develop cooperative activities on DRM for sustainable development;
- Encourage and support CDRM vice-chairs to organize webinars, technical-scientific events, and publications related to their working groups;
- Encourage the WFEO national members to be part of this committee;

Committee structure and members

The WFEO-CDRM 2025-2029 will be hosted by the Swiss National Committee WFEO-ENGINEERS EUROPE, of which the Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA) in Zurich, Switzerland is a member. The SIA will be responsible for managing the CDRM. Mr. Federico Ferrario is promoted as new Chair CDRM.

The CDRM currently has 46 members from 28 countries and 2 from global or regional organizations. The committee has been organized in five working groups, based on the identification of key engineering-related elements of the DRM that conform most of the book prepared during the previous CDRM period. Each of them is led by a vice-chair.

Member	WFEO national member/Institution	Country	WG
1 Domingos Candeeiro	Organizme of Engineers Angola	Angola	
2 Mohammad Alhaidhal	Saudi Council of Enginners	Arabia Saudi	
3 Mohammed Almutairi	Saudi Council of Engineers	Arabia Saudi	
4 Colin Sheldon	Engineers Australia - Board Professional Engineers Queensland	Australia	
5 Stefan Schauer	Austrian Institute of Technology	Austria	IS
6 Wu Chou Kit	The Macau Institute Of Engineers	China	IS
7 Timothy Tang Un Fong	The Macau Institute Of Engineers	China	LUP
8 Fang Chen*	China Association for Science and Technology	China	DIM
9 Lei Wang	Intl. Res. Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals	China	DIM
10 Xu Tang	IRD (RIG-WECEIPHE) at Fudan University	China	IF
11 Denghua Yan	Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research	China	
12 Marcial Rivera R.	Colegio Federado de Ingenieros y de Arquitectos de Costa Rica	Costa Rica	DIM
13 Karel Vancura*	The Czech Association of Scientific and Technical Societies	Czech Republic	LUP
14 Carlien Bou Chedid	Ghana Institution of Engineers	Ghana	IS
15 Vasilios G. Bardakis	Technical Chamber of Greece	Greece	IS
16 Aris Chatzidakis	World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE)	Greece	
17 Aaron Bok	The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers	Hong Kong	LUP
18 Navinchandra B Vasoya	The Institution of Engineers, India	India	CB
19 Barbara Polidoro	ARUP Milan	Italy	IF
20 Kenichi Tsukahara	Science Council of Japan	Japan	LUP
21 Hussain Seraj	Jordan Engineers Association	Jordan	
22 Ahmad H. Bahman	Kuwait Society of Engineers	Kuwait	CB
23 Ali Hennahoui	Federation of Lebanese Engineers	Lebanon	
24 Hasan Damaj	Order of Engineers and Architects		
25 Nor Hisham	The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia	Malaysia	LUP
26 Ko Ko Gyi	Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies	Myanmar	
27 Dave Brunston*	Engineering New Zealand	New Zealand	IS
28 Myles Lind*	International Federation of Municipal Engineering	New Zealand	IF
29 Muhammad Nuruddeen Musa	Nigerian Society of Engineers	Nigeria	
30 Wilmer Saavedra	Peruvian Engineers Association	Peru	
31 Christian Ayala	Peruvian Engineers Association	Peru	
32 José Macharé - Chair	Peruvian Engineers Association	Peru	IF
33 José Cabeçadas Paula Ribeiro	Ordem dos Engenheiros Técnicos Portugal	Portugal	
34 Paulo Gil Lopes Martins	Ordem dos Engenheiros Técnicos Portugal	Portugal	
35 Vitor Manuel Antunes Reis	Ordem dos Engenheiros Técnicos Portugal	Portugal	
36 José Andrade da Silva Branco	Ordem dos Engenheiros	Portugal	
37 Refilwe Buthelezi	Engineering Council of South Africa	South Africa	LUP
38 Arturo Muñia D.	Instituto de la Ingeniería de España	Spain	CB
39 Federico Ferrario	Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects	Switzerland	LUP
40 Ting-Chi Tsao	The Chinese Institute of Engineers	Taiwan	IS
41 Lofti Khammari	Tunisian Engineers Order	Tunisia	
42 Valentina Putrino*	Institution of Civil Engineers	United Kingdom	CB
43 Viviana Novelli	Cardiff University	United Kingdom	CB
44 James Daniell	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction & Recovery - World Bank	USA	CB
45 Marlene Kanga	Engineers Australia	ADV Australia	ADV
46 Soichiro Yazukawa	UNESCO Paris	ADV Francia	ADV

Figure 1: Current members of the CDRM

Who are we? - Introduction to the SIA

“Striving for a sustainable built environment designed for the future.”

The Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA) is the official professional association for qualified specialists in the fields of civil engineering, architecture, technology and the environment. With more than sixteen thousand members, the SIA forms a highly competent, interdisciplinary network whose central goal is to shape the living environment in a way that is fit for the future - entirely in the spirit of high-quality building culture.

The members are organised into 4 professional groups and 19 sections. The professional groups send a total of 38 delegates to the Assembly of Delegates, the supreme body of the SIA, in proportion to their membership. The remaining 38 of the 76 delegates are sent by the sections, with each section sending two delegates. The Assembly of Delegates decides on the most important business of the Society and appoints the Board, the highest governing body. The expert councils deal with the SIA's core topics at a strategic level on behalf of the Board, the central commissions manage and are responsible for work on the growing body of SIA standards, and the Network Woman and SIA promotes gender equality and the advancement of women in the planning professions, as well as the “SIA international network”, which promotes international activities and cooperation. Numerous independently organised specialist associations have affiliated themselves to the SIA and work together on behalf of the planning profession. Through courses, conferences, lectures and field visits, they promote a mutual exchange of experience and nurture specialist contacts at national and international level. The Head Office coordinates, manages and supervises the day-to-day business in accordance with the Board's guidelines and directives.

Quality and competence

The SIA stands for quality and professional competence, values that the Society has upheld and instilled throughout 180-plus years of activity. It is the key professional association for qualified experts in the construction, technology and environmental sectors. With over 16 000 members, the SIA constitutes an interdisciplinary network of professional groups, regional sections and specialist associations, as well as more than 200 expert and standardization committees. They strive in common for design innovation, integrity and sustainability as enduring hallmarks of construction in Switzerland.

Fostering fundamental values

Engineers, architects and professionals in allied sectors are the shapers of our built environment. In undertaking such work, they shoulder a major responsibility and have the Society's vigorous support for tackling this challenge. The SIA obliges members to orient their professional activities towards sustainability, to pursue an exemplary ethical approach to the practice of their profession, and to respect rules of fair competition. The Society's work acknowledges Switzerland's regional, cultural and linguistic diversity. The SIA supports continuous further training for members and strives for a high level of education with international recognition.

Responsibility

The SIA operates through its members and stands by them. Members are active ambassadors of the Society's ideas, which they implement in professional practice. The SIA represents their interests and champions the cultural, social and economic significance of their respective professions. The Society and its membership jointly shoulder a major responsibility and commitment to fine building culture.

Essential professional tools

The SIA maintains a body of standards that provide recognized, widely applied and indispensable regulations for planning and construction in Switzerland. The Society continuously reviews, revises and updates its standards and supplies information about their application. The standards and corresponding technical booklets and documentation are a joint effort by SIA experts, construction clients, contractors, suppliers and public authorities, along with universities and colleges.

Interdisciplinary cooperation

Today's planning and construction projects are subject to constant change brought on by rapid technological developments and ever-growing ecological, social and economic challenges. It is an SIA conviction that the future's problems are best solved through effective, professional, interdisciplinary partnerships. The Society's four professional groups – Architecture, Civil Engineering, Technology, Environment – as well as its specialist associations, committees and regional sections collectively ensure that cooperation transcends disciplinary, cultural and generational boundaries.

Professionalism

The SIA stands for quality and professional competence. Members serve their clients as creators of comprehensive, innovative solutions guided throughout by responsibility, sustainability and outstanding quality.

The SIA knowledge network

The SIA represents its members and is supported by them. With this two-way commitment, the Society has achieved much regarding quality in the planning and construction sectors. SIA experts generally work on a volunteer basis in the committees, specialist associations, regional sections, professional groups, and in the Society's other bodies. This approach has created an interdisciplinary knowledge network that lays a sound and broad-based foundation for the SIA and facilitates major contributions both present and future towards a sustainable, high-quality built environment designed for the times ahead.

The expertise of the SIA in the field of Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

In the field of natural hazards, the SIA supports professionals with the expertise of its members and numerous documents (standards, position papers, projects) that ensure the correct application of construction measures or land-use planning, all based on the integrated risk management matrix. In addition, the SIA collaborates with several associations and groups specialising in this field (FAN, Davos Baukultur, SLF, PLANAT, etc.) in order to support and assist public authorities in their search for optimal and sustainable solutions.



Figure 2: Manageable risks thanks to integrated risk management / © PLANAT

Expertise of Federico Ferrario, proposed Chair of CDRM

Federico has an MSc. in forest engineering and hydraulic engineering of the Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich and Lausanne.

Director and Chairman of the Board of the engineering firm EcoEng SA, Federico currently works as a project manager in the fields of natural hazards, hydrology and hydraulics, risk management, and environmental consulting. He is also a firefighter officer at the local city fire brigade and a Swiss federal firefighting instructor with various specialisations.

He is an active member of the CDRM since June 2022 and speaker of the webinar “Disaster Risk Reduction in Switzerland - Strategy and Management” given on April 25, 2025.

Federico is currently vice-president of the SIA.

Budget-draft WFEO-CDRM 2025-2029

As member of the hosting organization, the SIA will provide the secretariat and supporting travel expenses for the Chair, will provide financial support for the use of rooms, equipment, staff, activities sponsored by CDRM and office supply expenses for four years according to the budget-draft.

We also plan to publish a web publication once a year featuring the most important CDRM activities and milestones of the past year. This publication will summarise the topics covered in the webinars that have been held and should also provide an overview of the topics covered this year in an international comparison. This way, we promote international exchange of DRM topics.

We plan the hosting and organising up to 6-8 short Webinars per year at regular intervals about different DRM topics. In agreement with the speakers, these webinars will be recorded and made available on the SIA website.

Estimated annual budget for committee activities

SIA Budget-Draft for CDRM-Webinars 2025-2029				
	per Webinar		annual cost	
Duration	1h		1h	
Number of webinars per year	-		6-8	
Pricing	free		free	
Language (no translation)	English		English	
SIA cost overview per year				
Development costs (SIA)	CHF	1'400.00	CHF	9'800.00
Speaker fees (including expenses) - assumption: 1-2 speakers per webinar	CHF	400.00	CHF	2'800.00
SIA premises / location	CHF	-	CHF	-
Communication + marketing, publications (SIA)	CHF	1'200.00	CHF	8'400.00
Administration / invoicing (SIA)	CHF	500.00	CHF	3'500.00
Webinar project management (SIA)	CHF	1'000.00	CHF	7'000.00
Course evaluation / follow-up work (SIA)	CHF	200.00	CHF	1'400.00
Annual expenses F. Ferrario and staff (i.e. travel expenses)		-	CHF	5'000.00
Secretary (organisation of regular online meetings, agendas, minutes)		-	CHF	2'000.00
Total costs SIA per year	CHF	4'700.00	CHF	39'900.00

Figure 3: Budget-Draft annual of annual webinars

Responsibilities of the CDRM secretary (Host):

- Support the committee by:
 - ensuring adequate funds to cover related expenses
 - ensuring adequate travel funds for the chair
 - ensuring relevant outcomes for the Federation
- preparation of agendas
- booking the location office facilities
- production of minutes
- production of communications

Qualified chair - Host members

- Federico Ferrario (Vice President and Treasurer SIA)
- Christoph Starck (Managing Director SIA)
- Christoph Fahrer (Head Education Department SIA inForm)
- Dörte Aller (Responsible for Climate Adaptation and Natural Hazards SIA)
- 1-2p. of the Course Management of the Education Department SIA inform (1p. president staff)
- 1p. of the Relations Department SIA
- 1p. of the Finance Department SIA
- 1p. Assistant Secretary SIA

Annex:

- PDF "Article_Extreme weather conditions on our doorstep.pdf", 4 pages
from: <https://www.sia.ch/en/cms/node/21809>
- PDF "CH-Focus-on-DRR-for-GP2022-_29042022.pdf", 12 pages
from: https://www.cooperacionsuiza.pe/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/CH-Focus-on-DRR-for-GP2022-_29042022.pdf
- PDF "Extract_of_presentation_SIA_DRR_20220809_V3b", 7 pages