



World Federation of Engineering Organizations Fédération Mondiale des Organisations d'Ingénieurs

Public Statement

WFEO position to the build-back-better call for arms

Paris, 5 June 2020, World Environment Day

WFEO and WFEO member organisations stand in solidarity with the billions of people around the world that are suffering the impact of the global pandemic of COVID-19.

Our mission is to serve society through engineering practice to address the issue of what public policies need to be implemented to foster socio-economic security and sustainable development.

While demonstrating solidarity and empathy with the ones who are suffering the epidemics consequences, we have published a number of pages on our website, which outline [COVID-19 global engineering responses](#). However, we must also look towards the future, towards an economic and social recovery that recognises we are also in the midst of an unfolding environmental crisis. Together, we should shape our recovery in a way that allows us to contribute towards a resilient and net-zero carbon future; it is a truly transformative recovery speeding up the implementation of 2030 SDGs.

Our decisions and actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic can set us on a course for environmental recovery, if we act now.

WFEO remains committed to continuing work on climate action, largely through our Committee on Engineering and the Environment, and through the [WFEO Declaration on Climate Emergency](#). This declaration is an important tool in allowing the global engineering community to “build-back-better” after this pandemic, and promote a joined-up approach to ensuring a future earth is liveable for generations to come. We urge current and future signatories to the eleven actions of the Declaration, starting from the first, *to continue to raise awareness of the climate emergency and the urgent need for action amongst WFEO National Member Engineering Organisations and WFEO Partners, all stakeholders within the National Members and with Governments*.

INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FMOI/WFEO: Maison de l'UNESCO 1, rue Miollis 75015 Paris, France

Tél: +33 (0)1 45 68 48 46 Fax: +33 (0)1 45 68 48 65 email: secretariat@wfeo.org

Web site: www.wfeo.org



World Federation of Engineering Organizations Fédération Mondiale des Organisations d'Ingénieurs

WFEO Member Organisations, Associates and Partners in engineering are all invited to sign this Declaration and to work with National Governments and Multilateral Organisations to promote a build-back-better economic and social recovery.

Signatories of the WFEO Declaration of Climate Emergency will participate in a global communication campaign to raise awareness of the opportunity we have to focus the economic and social recovery around climate change mitigation and resilience measures. COVID-19 is proof that we can show global solidarity, but also change behaviour in the face of a global emergency, presenting hope for our collective fight against climate change.

It is important now to invest in the future, not the past. We must look towards low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure, the creation and application of clean energy, and ensure we incorporate inclusive social outcomes in decision making that will leave no one behind. We must invest and design buildings, cities and infrastructure systems as indivisible components of a larger, constantly regenerating and self-sustaining connected system in balance with the wider society and the natural world. This is also an opportunity to invest in education and capacity building, which will develop the necessary skills for the “green” jobs at the local, regional and national level.

COVID-19 is a global pandemic event that is affecting all of us on this planet. It is a once in a generation challenge that will change the world for ever as we used to live it. We must use this misfortune to rebuild our economies and society in a transformative manner, which is considerate of the planet's delicate environmental balance. A build-back-better approach that considers climate change at the heart of its policies, investments and decision making is the only way forward if we want to live in a world that will be more resilient and sustainable.

Prof Gong Ke

WFEO President

Davide Stronati

Chair of the Committee of Engineering and the Environment

INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FMOI/WFEO: Maison de l'UNESCO 1, rue Miollis 75015 Paris, France

Tél: +33 (0)1 45 68 48 46 Fax: +33 (0)1 45 68 48 65 email: secretariat@wfeo.org

Web site: www.wfeo.org