

WORLD ENGINEERING DAY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – A WFEO LED INITIATIVE THAT WILL CELEBRATE THE FOUNDING DAY OF THE ORGANISATION, 4TH MARCH FOR ALL FUTURE YEARS FROM 2020 ONWARDS

The World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) proposed 4th March as **World Engineering Day**, the founding day of the Federation, as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the organisation in 2018. The proposal was led by Dr Marlene Kanga WFEO President, who engaged with UNESCO and its member states to get the approval.

WFEO received some **80 letters of support** from peak international and national institutions, academies and national commissions to UNESCO, representing **30 million engineers around the world**.

The first stage of the decision was made on 17 April 2019 when the UNESCO Executive Board recommended unanimously to the UNESCO General Conference in November 2019, that they “decide to proclaim 4 March of every year World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development”. The vote on this recommendation will take place in November 2019.

This resolution was backed by member states of UNESCO with support **from more than 40 nations** including: Namibia, China, Tanzania, Mozambique, Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, Zimbabwe, Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia, Uruguay, Senegal, Liberia, Nigeria, Turkey, Madagascar, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mali, Iraq, Gabon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Serbia, Saudi Arabia, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Russian Federation, Poland, Kenya, Iran, Nicaragua, Oman, Bangladesh, France, Comoros Islands, Liberia, Jordan, Philippines and UK.

The final stage was a decision at the UNESCO General Conference in November 2019.

“Engineers aren’t very good at articulating the value of engineering and the impact that engineers and engineering have on society. This is a wonderful opportunity to talk about these aspects and engage the community in the work of engineers”, Dr. Marlene Kanga

An international day with co-ordinated celebrations across the world will be an opportunity to increase the profile of engineering and to gain media coverage for the events. A website www.worldengineeringday.net and media kits, ideas for events and a media presence has been developed. Social media will be used to promote events around the world. Organisers will be asked to register their events to build the momentum for celebrations. This is expected to grow each year and increase in importance as each nation makes the Day their own.

The Day is also an opportunity to engage with government and industry to address the need for engineering capacity and the quality of engineers around the world and develop strategic frameworks and best practices for the implementation of engineering solutions for sustainable development.

EVERY MEMBER AND ASSOCIATE IS INVITED TO CELEBRATE WORLD ENGINEERING DAY ON 4TH MARCH EACH YEAR

WORLD ENGINEERING DAY IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND SAY “IF YOU WANT TO MAKE CHANGE FOR A BETTER WORLD – BECOME AND ENGINEER” DR MARLENE KANGA WFEO PRESIDENT

Speech on World Engineering Day at UNESCO 17 April 2019

Madam Chair, thank you for the opportunity to speak about the importance of World Engineering Day. I am the President of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations that originally developed this proposal and is committed to facilitating its success around the world. The Federation is the peak body for engineering with members from 100 nations comprising the professional engineering institutions of the world representing more than 30 million engineers. Our members are committed to supporting the Day annually. More than 80 institutions representing some 23 million engineers have provided letters of support.

Currently there is no day that celebrates engineering. This Day is an opportunity to engage with society - young people, especially girls, on the importance of engineering. Engineers are critical to advance the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. We commend this decision that will enable focus on how engineering can create a better world.

Dr. Marlene Kanga AM Hon. FIEAust Hon. FIChemE FTSE
WFEO President



the UNESCO Executive Board in session, Paris, April 2019



WFEO President Dr Marlene Kanga at the WFEO Executive Board meeting, Paris, April 2019.