

Working Group on Water (WGoW)



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WFEO, representing engineering, with the support of the Working Group on Water (WGoW), must acquire greater relevance in water global decisions, showing to the society the importance of engineering to improve the living conditions of all mankind.

Tomas A. Sancho,
Chair of WGoW (Since 2018),
Instituto de la Ingeniería de España

The Working Group on Water was approved by WFEO's 50th Anniversary Executive Council meeting held in October 2018 in London on the occasion of the Global Engineering Congress (GEC2018).

The Working Group is hosted jointly by Spain's Instituto de la Ingeniería de España and Portugal's Ordem dos Engenheiros. WCCE's Past President Tomás Sancho was appointed chair to this group and Teodoro Estrela, current WCCE's Standing Committee Chair on Water, is the Executive Director of the WGoW. Joaquim Pocas, Ode Portugal is the Vice president.

WFEO's Working Group on Water (WGoW) will encompass all WFEO's water engineering initiatives and its relations with UN's bodies and agencies, mainly with UN-Water and UNESCO, within the scope of the engineering's contribution to UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The Working Group had its first formal meeting in Ljubljana in April 2019. In London, at GEC2018, a roundtable about water was conducted with the participation of Spain, Portugal, WCCE and Pakistan representatives. Another roundtable about Changing approaches to water sanitation and hygiene was conducted by Chair WGoW Tomás A. Sancho.

In WEC2019, Melbourne, November 2019, Chair Tomás Sancho will speak on the Working Group's first monograph: "Managing Floods and Droughts: Best practices and Engineering Contribution".

The Working Group is participating in UN-Water meetings in order to be engaged with the global movement supporting SDG 6 and attended the 2019 UN-Water meetings in Rome, February 2019 and Stockholm, August 2019. The main issue is now the SDG 6 Synthesis Report.

The 30th UN-Water Meeting reviewed the consultation process that was undertaken during the final stages of the preparation of the Synthesis Report 2018 including recommendations for the next Synthesis Report.

Participants also discussed a UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution calling for two high-level meetings – one in 2021 and one in 2023 – on water and sanitation issues, and options for how UN-Water could contribute to the preparations for these meetings.

Key achievements, publications and declarations

A precedent is the Madrid Declaration in the commemoration of the 50th WFEO Anniversary, 1st March 2018: Water: The Future we want (Engineering contribution to SDG 6). The Declaration is available in the WFEO website.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Water security, achieve SDG 6 and resilience to climate change require that engineering will provide knowledge and technology, leading water governance and its efficient use.



With the reports, we will support the knowledge transference between several regions of the world, and participate in UN-Water (through WCCE partnership) to increase the sound contribution on water related issues.

The work of the Working Group will comprise the 2019-2021 three-year period. During this period, three monographs will be scheduled regarding the following topics:

1. Managing droughts and floods: Best practices and engineering contribution, Summer 2019, with delivery anticipated at WEC2019, November 2019;
2. Achieving SDG 6 (Water goals): Contribution from engineering, Summer 2020;
3. Adaptation to climate change: water and engineering, contribution, Summer 2021.



Madrid Declaration "Water, the future we want", March 2018