



## WFEO UN Relations Committee (WURC) Activity Report for 2016

WURC has made great progress with the UN based on Eng. Jorge Spitalnik laying the foundation as the first WFEO representative at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in the last decade and thereon at the Rio+20 Conference that led to the creation of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

WFEO relations with the UN and intergovernmental bodies were substantiated by his initiative of creating WURC. WFEO participates in International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNESCO, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

I serve on the HLPF Steering Committee, we have Dr. Bill Colglazier (former Science and Technology Advisor to the US Secretary of State) who co-chairs the UN Group to Support Technology Facilitation Platform for the UN SDGs is a member of my US subcommittee of WURC, and I work with the UN NGO Scientific and Technological Group as WFEO representative.

In addition Donovan Guttieres who is a member of the UN Major Group for Children and Youth is also a member of the WFEO Young Engineers and Future Leaders Committee.

A representative of WFEO Women in Engineering Committee attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) that took place this March. We also have Andy Reynolds, formerly with US State Dept and former Chair of UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), he is a member of my US Subcommittee of WURC.

Jorge and I represent WFEO at the UN IAEA meetings.

Eng. Ruomei-li, member of WURC, was in attendance at the Meeting in New-York of the UN from 10 July to 20 July at the second HLPF (I represented WFEO at the first HLPF). The HLPF is reviewing annually the progress on the UN SDGs through 2030. Mustafa Shehu and I were to attend with Ruomei-Li. I had submitted applications for ground passes for the UN for the 10-20 July meetings.

The UN mishandled the applications and we were able to get Ruomei-Li in. Mustafa's credentials and mine were approved late on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. Mustafa had trouble with a visa and I had family problems on Friday. Thus, as senior member of my family, I was unable to leave Atlanta. Fortunately I had participated in the run up planning for the meetings as a member of the HLPF Steering Committee.

I applaud and thank our colleague, Eng. Ruomei-Li, for her outstanding representation of WFEO during the 10 to 20 July UN meetings, I applaud and thank Eng. Stacey M. Delvecchio and Women in Engineering for attending the 60<sup>th</sup> CSW.

I appreciate and thank the STCs for their engagement in the UN SDGs. This gives WFEO a voice in the global community effort on SDGs where engineering is a key to translating goals into reality.

WURC, started by Eng. Jorge, has placed WFEO on the UN Stage and WURC is doing great work with no WFEO funding.

The SDGs are an opportunity for WFEO to have a voice as we go forward. I welcome all help and suggestions.

*Reginald Vachon, Chair of WURC*