

**WFEO UN Relations Committee (WURC)
Meeting #5 – December 8, 2014
UNESCO Headquarters- Paris France**

Meeting Summary

Item	Summary of Discussion	Decisions and Actions:
1.	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>Acting Chair D. Danyluk welcomed everyone to the meeting, and passed on the regrets of WURC Chair R. Vachon and J. Spitalnik who had to attend the Executive Board meeting. Participants introduced themselves and their affiliations. A few members were unable to attend but enough were available to conduct a useful meeting.</p> <p>In opening comments, D. Danyluk noted that 2015 offers tremendous opportunities for WFEO to engage with the UN. The UNFCCC, UNISDR and SDG processes all reach significant milestones in the coming year, and are actively engaged with civil society. The WURC is tasked with developing a strategy to achieve significant WFEO engagement and profile in all three UN initiatives.</p> <p>This meeting is a chance for WURC members to recommend the role of the Committee within the WFE O structure – should it continue as it is, become a new standing committee or an independently governed standing committee. The Executive Board wants to know the direction of WURC and ideas to move its work forward. WURC members were encouraged to be frank and open in the ensuing discussions.</p> <p>The list of meeting participants is attached to the end of these notes.</p>	None. List of participants is attached.
2.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>An agenda and accompanying agenda book was circulated two weeks before the meeting. The agenda was developed at a previous teleconference called by the Chair to consult with a few WURC members. There were no additions to the agenda and the Acting Chair had discretion to re-order agenda items and propose deferring others.</p> <p>The following agenda items were deferred to the next meeting: Item 4.1 – Science Advisory Board Item 4.4 - Membership in UN-Industrial Development Organization (UN-IDO) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Item 5.2 – Science Advisory Board perspective (re Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs) Item 5.3 – How to Engage WFEO (covered at a later meeting)</p> <p>The agenda was approved as modified.</p>	None
3.	<p>REVIEW SUMMARY OF MEETING #4 – APRIL 10, 2014</p> <p>D. Lapp briefly reviewed the meeting summary, which was included in the agenda book for this meeting. There were no comments or suggested changes to the notes as written.</p> <p>He reported that all action items arising from the April meeting were</p>	Meeting #4 Summary approved as written.



Item	Summary of Discussion	Decisions and Actions:
	<p>complete or in progress. One exception was developing a roster of experts to attend and report on UN meetings. This will be carried over as an action item from this meeting.</p> <p>The April meeting made note of the work of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) which Going Ke is a member. The SAB issued its report in the fall of 2014 in conjunction with the official release of the draft Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) released by the Open Working Group. The 17 proposed goals form the zero draft of the final SDGs to be submitted to the UN General Assembly in September 2015.</p> <p>It was noted that the UN holds many regional meetings as part of its consultation process. The extensive network of WFEO national and international members could be tapped to secure volunteers to attend and report on these meetings. A reporting template for reporting on meetings was developed in the fall of 2014 and is now in use. D. Danyluk reported success in securing volunteers to attend regional meetings of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) through D. Favrat as well as UNEP meetings in Africa through the FAEO (M. van Veelan).</p>	<p>G. Ke to distribute the September 2014 Science Advisory Board report on the SDGs to WURC members</p> <p>D. Lapp to distribute compilation of WFEO UN-CSD interventions to WURC members and STC Chairs</p>
4.	<p>WORLD FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING ORGANIZATIONS RELATIONS WITH UN AGENCIES AND OTHERS</p> <p>WFEO has many links with UN agencies as listed in a table provided as part of the agenda materials, but how solid or active these connections are is uncertain. There is a need to update the listing of relationships as well whether they are currently active or /inactive. For relationships that are active, the following information should be obtained:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nature of the relationship (formal, informal, MOU or other form of agreement) 2. Who has the relationship e.g. WFEO HQ, STC or other 3. Purpose of the relationship 4. What is trying to be accomplished 5. Names and contact information to get regular updates 6. Joint events or activities/projects that have happened or are planned <p>The WFEO website has established links to the UN organizations, but more detail is required along the lines described above. It was suggested to develop a template that would be used to report on UN events completed or upcoming. This would include documenting older events to a back date to be determined.</p> <p>Other information that could be put on the website includes WFEO interventions on UN activities or policies. It was noted that the process and structure of presenting interventions should be part of the new WFEO Strategic Plan. For example, for the upcoming UNFCCC COP-21 event in Paris what are we planning to do.</p> <p>For UN activities going forward the participant representing WFEO should explain in reporting why we participated and how it supports the goals of the organization. A reporting template for participation in UN meetings and</p>	<p>Update the WFE O UN Relations table and provide changes to WFE O webmaster to update on our website.</p> <p>Forward meeting reporting template to members of</p>



Item	Summary of Discussion	Decisions and Actions:
	events is available to ensure consistency. The template includes a section to place background information that would be provided by the STC to the volunteer. WFEO should inform the volunteer why they are attending and what messages (if any) can be communicated through interventions.	WURC.
5.	<p>WFEO CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN-CSD AND RIO +20</p> <p>WFEO is a recognized Co-Chair of the Major Group on Scientific and Technological Information along with ICSU and ISSC. Over the years ICSU has been very active with the UN and recently published a report giving their views on the proposed SDGs and the targets without consulting WFEO. It was noted that the scope of work and level of engagement with the UN by WFEO is modest, and limited by the human capacity of the WFEO Secretariat.</p> <p>Unlike ICSU, WFEO has no official positions on UN policies or and related subject matters, but has prepared interventions at particular events on particular subjects. A compendium of these interventions and summary reports on other activities and side events at the UN-CSD and Rio + 20 conferences was prepared by J Spitalnik and included in the agenda book. These cover many diverse subject areas that in some cases map to the scope of interest of a WFEO STC.</p> <p>The compendium is compiled in chronological order. It would be more useful compiled by subject area so that it could be more easily used by STCs.</p> <p>Participation at UN events can elevate the profile of WFEO not just by interventions, but also promotional brochures that provide more details about the work of individual STCs.</p>	Revamp the list of WFEO UN interventions into subject areas
5.	<p>UN AGENCY ACTIVITIES – COMMITTEE ON ENGINEERING AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CEE)</p> <p>The CEE held a side event in partnership with the WMO and the Global Water Network at the June 2014 UNFCCC Bonn Climate Talks. One of the speakers was the Co-Chair of the UNFCCC SBSTA (Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice) who observed that more engineering input to the UNFCCC was required. Efforts will be made to encourage the Co-Chair to participate in upcoming WFEO-related events in 2015.</p> <p>Discussions are underway with WMO to hold a joint workshop at the UNFCCC 2015 Bonn Climate Talks that would bring together experts to define specific engineering needs for accurate climate data and projections. Funding for the workshop would be provided by WMO.</p> <p>The CEE organized and supported an eight (8) person delegation from Peru Colegio of Engineers to attend the COP-20 meetings in Lima Peru in December 2014. A trip report will be submitted in the first quarter of 2015.</p> <p>The CEE Task Group on Engineering and Agriculture chaired by F. Thabet of Tunisia is seeking funding to organize a workshop on the role of engineering towards food security in Africa. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has expressed interest in participating but no financial contribution. Engineering can play a huge role in achieving agricultural sustainability.</p>	None. For information of WURC.

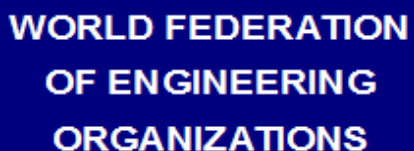
Item	Summary of Discussion	Decisions and Actions:
	<p>The CEE will participate in the June 2015 UNFCCC Bonn Climate Talks, organization of a side event and running an information booth. It will also assist in the organization of an Engineers Climate Change Day at COP-21 in Paris in December 2015.</p>	
6.	<p>UN AGENCY ACTIVITIES – COMMITTEE ON DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (CDRM)</p> <p>The Science Council of Japan is the Japan member organization that participates in the work of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). There are WFEO members from DRM that are part of the Science Council so engineering views do get communicated but are not recognized as input from WFEO.</p> <p>The Science Council is holding an interdisciplinary meeting next month in advance of the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Japan in March 2015. CDRM will be attending the Conference. The Science Council has joined with DRM to present how engineering can contribute to disaster risk reduction and how this can be fit into an overall framework for DRR. The scope includes the application of technology and the use of ICT. The aim is to develop a technology roadmap for DRR.</p> <p>Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) is a decade-long, interdisciplinary research program sponsored by ICSU in partnership with the International Social Science Council (ISSC), and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR). It is a global initiative seeking to address the challenges brought by natural hazard events, mitigate their impacts, and improve related policy-making mechanisms.</p> <p>CDRM is keeping a close watch on the IRDR but has found it very difficult to raise the profile of engineering with ICSU and ISSC. If WFEO is not there, ICSU and ISSC will only talk science to the UN.</p>	<p>CDRM to send a copy of their presentation for the Science Council of Japan meeting to D. Lapp for distribution</p>
7.	<p>DISCUSSION OF METHODS AND PROCESSES FOR WFEO UN INTERVENTIONS</p> <p>Although this item was not specifically listed in the agenda, there was considerable discussion on this topic to include in the meeting summary.</p> <p>It was suggested that there is a need for effective and efficient communication from WFEO to UN agencies. One approach is to prepare issue statements which would be less onerous to prepare since these would not require the consensus of all WFEO members.</p> <p>It was agreed to ask the Executive Board to develop a process to prepare and communicate issue statements. The process would empower STC chairs to issue statements on behalf of WFEO. It should provide clarity on the definition of “issue” and “position” statements – the latter would have to be approved by WFEO members. Issue statements could be approved and issued by STCs. The process will help STC Chairs control the things STCs do and say.</p> <p>An issue statement might be defined as an observation on a topic, within the scope of an individual STC or combination of STCs and would be</p>	



Item	Summary of Discussion	Decisions and Actions:
	<p>contributed as part of the dialogue. Position statements would be more formal, require more input and time, and will take much longer to approve.</p> <p>An example for effective messaging was provided for a conference on agriculture and water in Africa. The conference issued a declaration (with no engineering intervention) that stated every person has the right to 20L of water per day for free. But from an engineering perspective, the treatment and delivery of such water cannot be free, and this needs to be noted.</p> <p>It was agreed that position statements can be powerful provided they are not long and come to the point. But they take a long time to complete.</p> <p>It was suggested that WFEO work with national engineering academies to develop engineering position statements and serve as a conduit to UN agencies. For example the Royal Academy of Engineering could forward its views to the WFEO for integration with the broader perspective provided by our breath of expertise. There was support for this idea.</p> <p>Another suggested approach was to use national positions developed by individual WFEO members and amend them through a WFEO process to become a global position statement.</p> <p>It was agreed that a good start would be to gather academy position statements and enter into agreements to access and sue them to prepare global statements communicated through WFEO.</p>	<p>WURC Chair to request Executive Board to define a process and authorize human resources to develop a process for issue and position statements and commence collection of academy position statements.</p>
8.	<p>FUTURE WORK WITH UNESCO</p> <p>WFE O is currently reviewing agreements with UNESCO. No documentation is available yet. WFEO is an associate member of UNESCO until 2020. The question is what sort of work should we do with them and what committees should we participate. T. Youssef and the Executive Committee will discuss this matter with the Executive Board later in the week. Any items for WURC will come from that discussion.</p>	<p>None. For information of WURC.</p>
9.	<p>UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)</p> <p>The process to develop SDGs began at the Rio +20 conference in 2012 where it was recognized that the Millennium Development Goals required renewal. The UN Secretary General created the Open Working Group to prepare a draft of these goals for the 68th General assembly in September 2014. The 17 draft goals were developed in consultation with civil society.</p> <p>The General Assembly authorized a review/consultation process with civil society and others to arrive at a final draft of SDGs for approval at the 69th General Assembly in September 2015.</p>	



Item	Summary of Discussion	Decisions and Actions:
	<p>WFEO as a member of the major Group on Scientific and Technological Information is a recognized stakeholder through that mechanism. However, we are grouped with many other entities including our Major Group co-chairs ICSU and ISSC and the eight other major groups that are recognized by the UN.</p> <p>WURC Chair R. Vachon has been tracking the process to develop and consult on these goals and has been working with the UN secretariat to get the engineering message heard. WFE o also has a pathway through the Science Advisory Board to which G. Ke is a member.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to provide input to the SDGs between January and June 2015. Monthly meetings are being held at UN headquarters in New York. The question is how to we ensure WFEO's engineering perspectives to the SDGs are properly communicated to the right people and organizations that lead the process.</p> <p>Unfortunately WFEO did not live up to the commitment made to intervene in the discussions of the OWG that led to the creation of the SDGs. We need to do a better job with more commitment this time. There are two questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do we engage in the current process 2. How does WURC develop and deliver the messages <p>There is a need to develop a formal process to develop our position. This includes preparation of written materials as well as levels of review/approval and communication to the UN.</p> <p>A small group should be formed to develop material. Materials can be based on WFEO interventions at past meetings of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Written materials can be submitted to the secretariat. However, it was agreed that in addition to submitting written material it was important to intervene verbally at the meetings in New York.</p>	<p>D. Danyluk to consult with R. Vachon and J. Spitalnik to finalize a process.</p>
10.	<p>WURC REVIEW</p> <p>It was note that the WURC is evolving in its membership and scope of work. It was originally an informal coalition of several STCs (Energy, Environment, and Capacity-Building) plus the WFE O President to engage with the UN-CSD. The group is now a much larger committee that is meeting regularly.</p> <p>The draft Terms of Reference were included in the agenda materials for the meeting. They are not approved but have served as guidance for the committee's operation for the past couple of years. The questions to be answered include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What role should it play 2. Level of authority 3. Extent that it can develop and communicate WFEO messages 4. Extent to which it becomes the voice of global engineering to the UN and the world 	

Page 7 of 8



**WFEO UN Relations Committee (WURC)
Meeting #5 – December 8, 2014
UNESCO Headquarters- Paris France**

List of Attendees

Name	Organization	E-mail
Members		
M. Michaud	ASME – United States	michaudm@asme.org
E. Amorium (for J. Spitalnik)	FABRAE	edemarsamorim@gmail.com
D. Danyluk (Acting Chair)	WFEO-CEE	ddanyluk@shaw.ca
D. Lapp (by teleconference)	WFEO-CEE	david.lapp@engineerscanada.ca
D. Favrat	Swiss Engineering Society	daniel.favrat@epfl.ch
M. Kanga	Engineers Australia	marlenekanga@bigpond.com
M. van Veelan	Federation of African Engineering Organizations	martin@iliso.com
R. Li	CSEE	ruomi-li@csee.org.cn
M. Manuhwa	Engineering Council of South Africa	mmanuhwa1@yahoo.com
T. Komatsu	Kyushu University – Japan WFEO-DRM (Chair)	komatsu794@gmail.com
N. Kimura	Kyushu University – Japan WFEO-DRM (Deputy Secretary)	nkimura3@civil.kyushu-u.ac.jp
V. Economopoulos	Technical Chamber of Greece	vacoinon@gmail.com
Observers		
K. Allen	Engineers Canada	kim.allen@engineerscanada.ca
I. Juiz	WFEO Webmaster	webmaster@wfeo.net
A. Lamb	WFEO Communications and Marketing	communicationdirector@wfeo.net
P. Singh	South Pacific Engineers Association	pratarp@entec-fiji.com
K. Tsukahara	Kyushu University – Japan WFEO DRM Member	tsukahara@doc.kyushu-1.ac.jp
J. Venables	Institute of Civil Engineers – UK	jean@venablesconsultancy.co.uk
Regrets		
R. Vachon (Chair)	AAES – United States	vachon@asme.org
J. Spitalnik	FABRAE	jspitalnik@hotmail.com