



WFEO United Nations Relations Committee  
Sunday, 21 October 2018  
Global Engineering Conference, London, United Kingdom

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 14:02.

### **Approval of minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the meetings of March 2018 and November 2017. Motion approved.

### **United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency**

Jorge Spitalnik and Reggie Vachon represented WFEO at the UNIAEA 61<sup>st</sup> Congress in Vienna.

### **United Nations SDGs**

#### *STI Forum*

Gong Ke and Bill Kelly attended the UN Science, Technology and Innovative (STI) event for the Sustainable Development Goals on 5-6 June 2018 in New York and participated in a side event-- Systems Analysis and Capacity Building for Transformative Changes toward Achieving the SDGs and Long-Term Sustainability. (See Attachment A for details.) Gong Ke flew in to participate for the day and returned to China immediately after. Bill Kelly took the lead on this activity.

#### *UN Geneva*

Daniel Favrat, who has been doing a great job, is attending events at the UN in Geneva. He inquired about the possibility of business cards that he can hand out when he attends events. Dirk Dauw has attended UN events in Geneva for WFEO, as well.

#### *RIO+20*

David Lapp, from Canada, stated that Darrel couldn't make it this time, and he is sitting in for him. He did a number of workshops at the UN--Rio+20 and subsequent workshops and events. He's been very active in the convention on climate change and is bringing the voice of engineering to climate change.

#### *UN New York*

The following are some key points as background on the work of WFEO at the UN, as well as an overview from the events at the UN in June and July 2018. Reggie Vachon provided some

background information. Bill Kelly was asked to give a brief overview of the activities. Kelly has been pivotal in gathering information and providing input on the SDGs.

### ***Background on HLPF and SDGs***

- Progress on selected SDGs is reviewed each year in July at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF). See Attachment B.
- There are nine (9) major groups from the civil sector that participate in HLPFs:

Women	Non-Governmental Organization
Children and Youth	Local Authorities
Scientific and Technological	Workers and Trade Unions
Farmers	Business & Industry
Indigenous People	

- WFEO participates in the HLPF as a member of the Scientific and Technological Major Group (focused on technology and innovation) recognized by the UN to participate in the HLPFs. See Attachment C for 2018 activities.
- The International Science Council (ISC) is the successor to the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and International Social Science Council (ISSC). Engineering is now one half of a Major Group. However, there is not a lot of attention to science and engineering technology at the High Level Political Forum.
- The SDGs are not going to cover issues on water and energy unless attention is paid to the S&T group.
- WFEO needs to step up and be a key player.
- Some ask why WFEO must work with the S&T Major Group. The answer is that we can't go to the UN just as WFEO.
- WFEO has to collaborate and have a good relationship with ISC. ISC is much larger and has more funding than WFEO.
- WFEO has made good inroads and has a good relationship with ISC as a peer.
- WFEO works with ISC and other Major Groups for the side events at the UN. We combine our efforts with others to get a side event slot as there are more requests (100s) than slots for side events. Combining with others increases crowd size at the events and promotes engineering and WFEO visibility.
- Children and Youth are a large Major Group and are favored by the UN. Donovan Gutteres (grad. student at MIT) is very active in the Children & Youth Group (C&Y) and is also a member of WFEO Young Engineers and Future Leaders. C&Y have crowds as large as 300 at side events.
- Marlene mentioned that when we met ISC, they stated that we are the gap in their strategy. They need us to fill the gap. They wanted to know when we were going to merge with them.

### *Overview of 2018 UN Events HLPF*

- WFEO participated during the two weeks of the HLPF from 9 to 19 July 2018.
- WFEO handed out the Paris Declaration that was made with UNESCO.
- WFEO had a banner on the first floor that is part of an exhibit.
- On the last day, WFEO<sub>7</sub> was able to make the final debate/statement on the 19<sup>th</sup> in front of the representatives of the world community/governments.
- Although WFEO is one-half of the S&T MG, WFEO emphasized WFEO's Standing Technical Committees and the contributions they are making towards the SDGs, as well as the contribution of science.
- It is clear to all that one approach for each SDGs doesn't fit all; situations vary globally.
- Many participants at the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the HLPF did not really report on their progress but rather used it as an opportunity to talk about how great their country is.
- The orphan of the SDGs is 17. SDG17, partnerships, is where engineers can take part and really shine. The trick is bringing all of the SDGs together in various levels under 17.
- 2019 will be a big year. There will be two HLPFs. One HLPF will be held in July and conducted similarly to those in the past under United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). The second HLPF will be held in September under the UN General Assembly. The second will look at where we are with the SDGs and do a reset, if necessary. Hopefully, the reset will see the need for science, technology and engineering capacity.
- Over 2000 people attended the 2018 HLPF. The Major Groups are there as guests and the UN puts a lot of pressure on the NGOs to work together.
- WFEO is a member of the Steering Group (SG) for the HLPF. The SG meets electronically; sometimes we meet each week. Meetings are coupled with streams of email from the many members. WFEO works in between meetings with some of the other major groups to exhibit WFEO leadership and relationship building.
- A concern is that a number of the 9 major groups do not collaborate. Each major group has an issue and tends to focus only on that issue.
- If the NGOs could set a good example on collaboration, we'd have better success with the SDGs.

### *Additional key points*

David Lapp suggested that the UN groups have a gap, and he proposes that we offer a new group -- Practitioners. Do we want to advocate to a Practitioners major group that are more like minded like us? Can we do that under 17? David Lapp was asked to put a proposal together.

Major groups were created by governments in a big meeting about 20 years ago and it was very difficult to define the major groups. The nine (9) are an expression of civil society. NGOs is a specific one. It is going to be very difficult to convince an assembly of governments to add

another major group. In Rio+20, we created the HLPF, the solution to include other groups of civil society was to use the words "other stakeholders". Now we have major groups and Other Stakeholders.

This year in the middle of the stream, the UN changed the office responsible for working with the Major Groups. This led to confusion and that confusion still exists.

Daniel Favrat attended a meeting in Geneva, and everything turned to ethics and humanity and life extension with the bio-medical portion of medicine. The question was raised: Does WFEO have anything in this field? WFEO should also get involved in this at some stage. Bioengineering is one of the areas we're missing with the STCs. (Note that subsequent to the WURC meeting WFEO welcomed a relationship with the International Federation of Medical and Biological Engineering to become an Associate International Member.)

### ***2019 Events***

The fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly will take place from 11-15 March 2019, in Nairobi, Kenya, under the overarching theme "Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production". It is a good opportunity for the engineering community to look at the recommendations. Please send us something so we can put it on the web.

At the HLPF the thematic reviews will take place during the first week. The final week will focus on countries reporting on their progress. That is where we want to have an engineering voice. Through WFEO, we want to have input. We know the countries that will be giving the reports. The list is available on the website. The UN shares all the information on their web. Engineers in VNR countries need to step up and help, and let WURC know what they are doing.

The 2019 HLPF theme is Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality. It will conduct an in-depth review of SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), in addition to SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals) which is reviewed each year.

### ***Additional Key points***

- WFEO needs to do some things now to be ready for the July 2019 HLPF.
- There is an opportunity to tell our STC story and the involvement in the SDGs. Please send your story and any suggestions to the Chair of WURC.
- Capacity Building is a key to achieving the SDGs.

- Side events are very limited. They need to be productive, arranged early and be reflective of the goals being addressed. The SDGs for 2019 mentioned previously are the focus for your story.
- If we have good draft statements about the goals being reviewed, we will submit them. There is no guarantee, however, that they will be considered or acted on.
- There are no guarantees that we'll be given a chance to speak, but we should try.
- Decisions are made at the last minute on who can speak.
- We have a better chance of being selected to contribute (intervene), if we can find ways to share stories of what is going on at the country level and any WFEO involvement.
- We need to continue to maintain and polish our collaboration with ISC which is currently good.
- The following countries will conduct VNRs for the first time in 2019: Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Eritrea, Fiji, Ghana, Iceland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nauru, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Saint Lucia, Serbia, South Africa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, UK, Tanzania, and Vanuatu.
- Azerbaijan, Chile, France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Philippines and Sierra Leone will conduct VNRs for the second time. Recently added countries bring the list to 51 countries, with first-time VNR presenters including Cambodia, Eswatini, Guyana, Iraq, Liechtenstein and Rwanda. Newly added second-time presenters are Brazil, El Salvador and Turkey. If your country is giving a VNR, find the contact for the VNR and try to get engineering in the VNR.
- The Chair of the steering committee is from Italy, he's an economist. He does a great job and is easy to work with.

*COP24 Update (COP24 is the informal name for the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)*

- A side event with WFEO and a couple of partners has been confirmed (Dec 2018).
- We also have an event at the European Union pavilion, as well as the Polish Pavilion.
- We have 6 spots per week and Darrel is working on how to manage those spots for all of those interested.
- Things are going well, and a program is prepared for the side event.
- The theme of the side event is adaptation in capacity building.
- WFEO is working with The German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) to figure out what to do with climate information in several countries (Brazil, Costa Rica, Vietnam and the Nile Basin countries). GIZ is a great partner to work with. It is a huge organization with 20K employees and they are in 150 countries.
- There is great potential here and we should prepare a one-pager with what you're doing around climate change.

There is significant engagement with WFEO and Darrel Danyluk, David Lapp, Bill Kelly and Reggie Vachon. A reputation within the UN and the attention to detail is significant to WFEO.

These are long-term relationships that have taken years to build. WFEO needs to identify members to ensure continuity to see this through. Darrel is committed and has been doing this for 12 years. He has great relationships. WFEO is building a relationship and a friendship with this work.

#### *Action Items*

- The UN is looking for good practices, success stories and lesson learned. The call will come out on 1 November, and you have until February to submit. This is a great opportunity to be more visible. The information is on the UN site now. This could be the basis of some discussion during the week of thematic reviews. Here is link to the call:  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs/goodpractices>.
- We are working towards a tri-fold, YouTube video(s), and the use of a business card with WFEO on it, so that we can share and/or leave behind.

#### *Additional Information - Engineers Canada Course Case Studies on Code of Practice*

Engineers Canada has created an online course with four modules. It is for free. We can add a reference to the course on the WFEO site. We encourage everyone to sign up for this course--it consists of case studies on the code of practice. There are some good case studies on sustainability and practice. The course begins on October 24<sup>th</sup>. WEC has over 1000 people signed up so far. Contact David Lapp for additional information.

#### *Any final comments? Questions?*

- UK reporting on SDGs - when and who is doing that? ANSWER: The UK Department of International Affairs is preparing the report; see <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/uk-voluntary-national-review-of-progress-towards-the-sustainable-development-goals>
- On the WFEO site of the committee, the members are not mentioned. There are no members except Reggie. Send comments/suggestions to Jacques on the site. ANSWER: Site is new and will be updated with member names.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 15:23. Attachment D is a list of the participants of the meeting. The chair thanked everyone and hoped that all found this meeting and information useful.



## ATTACHMENT A



### Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs

New York, 5-6 June 2018

#### **Meeting Summary for "Systems Analysis and Capacity Building for Transformative Change toward Achieving the SDGs and long-term sustainability"**

Conference Room B, New York, 6 June 2018, 08:15-09:30

#### 1. Objective of the side event

Review how systems analysis can support decision makers in holistic policy making, considering all aspects of sustainability: societies, economy and the environment and how they are interrelated and introduce "The World in 2050" (TWI 2050). Review progress and challenges in engineering capacity building.

#### 2. Organizers & Participation

- International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) - Nebojsa Nakicenovic - panelist
- International Council for Science (ICSU) - Anne- Sophie Stevance - panelist
- American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) - E. William Colglazier moderator
- Children and Youth Major Group - Kimberly Pugel - panelist
- World Federation of Engineering Organizations - Gong Ke and William E Kelly - panelists

#### 3. Major issues discussed in the session

- Systems analysis as a way to assess long-term trade-offs and synergies across multiple SDGs and to identify policy options alleviating these trade-offs. The World in 2050 (TWI 2050) provides integrated transformation pathways towards sustainable and resilient societies in 2030 and beyond.
- Financing, conceiving, designing, constructing, maintaining and deconstructing the enabling infrastructure systems for achieving the SDGs requires building technical capacity especially in the least developed countries Ensuring that no one is left behind means in parallel building science and engineering capacity especially in the least developed countries.

#### 4. Main outcome

Update on how systems analysis and capacity building contribute and could contribute to the transformative change needed to achieve the SDGs and long-term sustainability.

#### 5. Key recommendations for action

- The World in 2050 (TWI 2050) provides integrated transformation pathways towards sustainable and resilient societies in 2030 and beyond. These pathways prove the feasibility of achieving the SDGs together rather than individual SDGs in isolation. They highlight important areas for action for policy makers. A report will be presented at the 2018 HLPF.
- Policy makers need to take steps to ensure technical capacity especially in the least developed countries adequate to support infrastructure systems - water, energy, production and consumption.

## ATTACHMENT B

### UN HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>.)

The establishment of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the [United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development \(Rio+20\)](#), "The Future We Want". The format and organizational aspects of the Forum are outlined in [General Assembly resolution 67/290](#).

The Forum meets annually under the auspices of the [Economic and Social Council](#) for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the [General Assembly](#) for two days.

For the positioning of the HLPF in the UN system, [please click here](#).

The Forum's first meeting was [held on 24 September 2013](#). It replaced the [Commission on Sustainable Development](#), which had met annually since 1993.

The HLPF is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) at the global level. [General Assembly resolution 70/299](#) provides further guidance on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The Forum adopts intergovernmentally negotiated political declarations.

[Please click here](#) to visit the web page of HLPF 2018.

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda encourages member states to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven" (paragraph 79). These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF. As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

For more information on the Voluntary National Reviews, click go to <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>.



## ATTACHMENT C

# WFEO PARTICIPATION IN 2018 UN HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) 8 to 19 July 2018 Summary

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

WFEO participants were Dr. Gong Ke (President-elect), Dr. R. Vachon (Chair WURC) and Dr. W. Kelly (Deputy Chair WURC). The three participated during the first week and Dr. Vachon participated the second week.

### **PROGRAM:**

The two-week program which began on 9 July can be seen at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018/programme>.

The 9 Major Groups met on 8 July for briefings in the "UN Church Center" and each morning at 8:00am the Steering Group met. Dr. Kelly and Dr. Vachon from WFEO and Nora Papp, Charles Ebikeme and Johannes Mengel from ISC attended for information for the day and to plan interventions.



WFEO Executive Vice President Reginald Vachon at first MGoS Steering Group Meeting

### **The main events on 9 July in the Main Conference room 4 were**

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Opening Session Video](#) also [Video](#)  
[Implementing the 2030 Agenda for resilient societies Video](#)

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all Video](#)

with numerous parallel side events from 1315 through 2000 hrs

**The main events on 10 July in the main conference room 4 were**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Thematic review: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies-Building resilience](#)

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Advancing science, technology and innovation for SDGs Video](#)

1:00PM – 6:00PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all Video](#)

with numerous parallel side events from 1315 through 2000 hrs. The WFEO side event [STC for Sustainable and Resilient Societies](#) 6:30 to 8:00



WFEO President Elect at Plenary Session on Goal 7

**The main events on 11 July in the main conference room 4 were**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Thematic review: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies SIDS perspective](#)

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Thematic review: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies Perspectives of LDCs, LLDCs and MICs](#)

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable](#) [Video](#)

with numerous parallel side events from 1315 through 2000 hrs.

**The main events on 12 July in the main conference room 4 were**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Thematic review: Implementing the SDGs: lessons from the regions](#)

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Thematic review: Perspectives of society: Session organized with major groups and other stakeholders](#) [Video](#)

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns](#) [Video](#)

with numerous parallel side events from 1315 through 2000 hrs. The ISC side event [Managing interactions between SDGs for transformation](#)



ISC Side Event - WFEO Executive Vice President Reginald Vachon made a presentation

**The main events on 13 July in the main conference room 4 were**

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss](#) [Video](#)

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 17 – Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development](#) [Video](#)

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Leaving No One Behind: are we succeeding?](#) [Video](#)

Official meeting

6:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Wrap-up of the first week](#)

with numerous parallel side events from 0815 to 2045.

**The main events on 16 July in the main conference room 4 were**

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Opening of HLS / Ministerial segment](#)

Official meeting

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Voluntary national reviews / Introduction of video](#)

Official meeting

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[Reporting on regional forums](#)

Official meeting

3:30 PM - 3:35 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[Address by UNEA President](#)

Official meeting

3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Voluntary national reviews](#)

Official meeting

3:35 PM - 6:00 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber,

with numerous parallel side events from 0830 through 2000 hrs

**The main events on 17 July in the main conference room 4 were**

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Voluntary national reviews](#)

Official meeting

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[Voluntary national reviews](#)

Official meeting

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[General debate](#)

Official meeting

3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Voluntary national reviews](#)

with numerous parallel side events from 0800 thru 2030.

**The main events on 18 July in the main conference room 4 were**

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Voluntary national reviews](#)

Official meeting

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[General debate](#)

Official meeting

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Voluntary national reviews](#)

Official meeting

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[Keynote speech by the Secretary-General](#)

Official meeting

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[Closing of the HLPF](#)

with numerous parallel side events from 0730 through 2100 hrs

**The main event on 19 July was a continuation of the ECSOC debate and Dr. Vachon presents the WFEO -ISC S&T recommendation with the WFEO Paris Declaration.**

300PM - 5:00 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[General debate](#)

There were over 300 side events.

## **VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS**

The VNRs are Voluntary National Reports by UN Member countries on the progress each has achieved on the 17 SDGs

### **2018 VNRs**

The countries presenting in 2018 were Andorra, Canada, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Lao PDR, Senegal, Ecuador, Kiribati, Lithuania, Mali, Guinea, Greece, Mexico, UAE, Lebanon, Romania, Bahamas, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Singapore, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Paraguay and Qatar

### **2019 VNRs**

The countries expressing interest in presenting VNRs at the 2019 HLPF for the first time: Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Eritrea, Fiji, Ghana, Iceland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nauru, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Saint Lucia, Serbia, South Africa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, and Vanuatu.

The following countries will be conducting voluntary national reviews at the 2019 HLPF for the second time: Azerbaijan, Chile, France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Philippines and Sierra Leone.

## **PRESENTATIONS AT WFEO AND ISC SIDE EVENTS:**

WFEO conducted the side event STC for Sustainable and Resilient Societies on 10 July. Dr Gong Ke and Dr. Vachon made presentations. Dr. Ke's presentation was Engineering - A Key to Sustainable and Resilient Societies. Dr. Vachon's presentation was Science and Engineering in support of the SDGs. Dr. Kelly moderated the side event. Others making presentations and topics were Anna Persic, Programme Specialist UNESCO Liaison Office New York attended and brought greetings from UNESCO Paris, and Donovan Gutierrez - Children and Youth Major Group - presented an overview of Children and Youth activities.

ISC conducted the side event, Managing Interactions between SDGs to drive SDG implementation from local to global levels, and long-term transformations on 12 July. Dr. Vachon's presentation was Managing SDG Interactions for Society & Communities. The side



event was moderated by Ruben Zondervan, Earth System Governance Project Office & Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future.

Others making presentations and topics:

- Nebojsa Nakicenovic, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis: The World in 2050 – building a broad narrative and quantitative pathways to achieve the 17 SDGs
- Peter Messerli, Centre for Development and Environment, Co-chair of the independent group of scientists to draft the 2019 GSDR: Mobilizing science towards transformation pathways for sustainable development
- Joseph Alcamo, University of Sussex Sustainability Programme: Acting on SDG Interactions
- Karina Barquet, Stockholm Environment Institute: Understanding systemic impacts to guide SDG implementation

## **PRESENTATION AT SPECIAL EVENT**

WFEO moderated and made a presentation as part of the education event [Effective tools employed by Major Groups and other Stakeholders in the 2030 Agenda implementation, follow-up and review Video Program with PowerPoints](#). WFEO had submitted a proposal for a stand-alone event but because of limited slots, WFEO's request was joined with four other NGOs.

## **ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED SIDE & SPECIAL EVENTS**

Participation in the main events prevented extensive participation in side events. Dr. Kelly and Dr. Vachon attended the following side events in addition to the WFEO and ISC side events.

- [Global Progress on Water and Sanitation](#)
- [Financing Water Cooperation](#)
- [Leaving No One Behind Through Data Revolution: Evidences from Bangladesh](#)
- [Transformative Pathways towards sustainable and resilient societies in 2030 and beyond](#)
- Leveraging innovative partnerships with higher education institutions towards sustainable and resilient societies" SDGs Learning, Training and Practice [Video](#)
- [Higher Education Sustainability Initiative Global Event Video](#)
- Participatory Approaches to Sanitation: Learning from Bangladesh [Video](#)
- [Advancing the 2030 Agenda in a Context of Uncertainty - The use of Strategic Foresight for Adaptive and Future-Ready SDG Strategies Video](#)

## **CIVIL SOCIETY ECOSOC DEBATE**

WFEO represented ISC and WFEO on the last day of ECOSOC debate. The written text of the presentation with the WFEO Paris Declaration was incorporated into the record of the ECOSOC debate. The statement can be found [here](#) and the Paris Declaration is [here](#).

High-level Policy Dialogue with the International Financial and Trade Institutions on "Where are we heading? Visions and projections for the future of the SDGs" [DRAFT Program pdf](#)

Thematic discussion on "Leveraging new technologies for the SDGs" (3:00 – 5:00 PM) [DRAFT Program pdf](#)

Videos

[19 Jul 2018 - 49th-A meeting \(Part 2\): Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration. Conclusion of the high-level segment.](#)

[19 Jul 2018 - 1\) ECOSOC high-level policy dialogue with international financial and trade institutions. 2\) Where are we heading? Visions and projections for the future of the SDGs.](#)

[19 Jul 2018 - 49th-A meeting \(Part 1\): ECOSOC 2018 thematic discussion - Leveraging new technologies for the SDGs.](#)

[20 Jul 2018 - 49th-B meeting: General debate \(conclusion\).](#) See STC Statement at 1:36:21

## BANNER

WFEO had a banner in the display as pictured. WFEO Executive Vice President Reginald Vachon addressing ECOSOC session

## PARIS DECLARATION

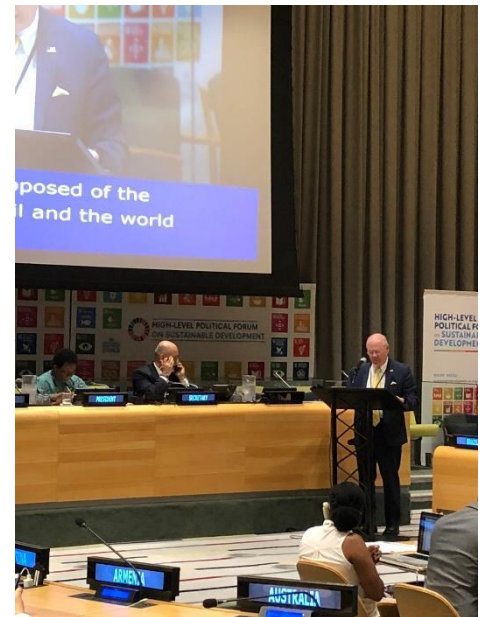
[The Paris Declaration](#) was made available to attendees at major events in Conference room 4.

## ISC -WFEO PIZZA EVENING

ISC arranged for a pizza evening on Wednesday of the first week and WFEO and ISC and others attended

## 2019 HLPF

**GOALS:** The sets of Goals to be reviewed in depth for the remainder of the current cycle will be Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14 in 2017; Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15 in 2018; and **Goals 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16 in 2019 with SDG 17 to be discussed each year.**



**VNRs:** Approximately 42 countries

**WFEO SIDE EVENT:** WFEO needs to propose a side event relative to education and participate in other side events, especially Children and Youth MG.

## FOLLOW UPS FOR 2018

- For the education event this year there is an opportunity to provide additional material by September 20th? Possible request to education and capacity building committees.
- The HLPF Steering Group has a follow-on discussion on the following by phone on 11 Sept 2018
  - Clarify primary & alternate SG representatives (a few people were added to the email lists and Whatsapp group to facilitate HLPF coordination, but we now need to restore clarify representatives);

- Conduct an overall review of the HLPF and our “performance” as SG, including addressing some of the issues raised by the business & industry MG with respect to the final declaration;
- Follow-up the cases of intimidations that have been reported and decide how to proceed;
- Decide if and how to prepare a collective MGoS “post mortem” assessment or final declaration of HLPF 2018 and chart the engagement agenda for the HLPF review process;
- Finalize the collection and uploading of the statements, both for the Expert Segment, the Ministerial Segment (i.e. VNRs) and the ECOSOC HL Meeting;
- Take a final decision on the independent MGoS website;
- Initiate the HLPF 2019 engagement process, including the proposal for the early establishment of VNR groups and SDG-under-review groups;
- Follow-up the ToR process, both in terms of codification of procedures and follow-up with new potential constituencies;
- Explore an outreach and communication agenda to strengthen the ranks of the Coordination Mechanism and expand participation.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. WFEO National Members should take note of the countries that will make VNRs in 2019 and try to work with their respective countries to provide input based on STC activities with SDGs.
2. WFEO should propose side events on Education and Capacity Building (Goal 4), Climate Change (Goal 13), and Anti-corruption (Goal 16).
3. WFEO should propose joint side events with ISC and Children and Youth and others.
4. WFEO should prepare intervention statements for thematic reviews and for the VNRs.
5. WFEO should provide an update on WFEO activities to support implementation of SDGs.
6. WFEO should seek to coordinate sectoral paper with ISC.
7. WFEO should look at possible education side event next year on engineering education and capacity building.

ATTACHMENT D



WFEO United Nations Relations Committee  
Sunday, 21 October 2018, 1400 - 1530  
London, ENGLAND

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