



WORLD FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING ORGANIZATIONS

A member of the Scientific and Technological Major Group of the United Nations

WFEO – UN RELATIONS COMMITTEE (WURC)

Draft Minutes

THE 2016 MEETING OF WFEO-UN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Lima (Peru), 14:00–16:00, December 7 (Wednesday), 2016

In attendance:

Chair: Reginald Vachon (Treasurer, USA)

Members: Jorge Spitalnik (President, Brazil); Marlene Kanga, (President-elect, Australia) Jacques de Méreuil (Executive director, France); Nobuaki Kimura (CDRM deputy secretary, Japan), Ruomei Li (National Member, China); Martin Van Veelen (CECB member, South Africa); Samuel Grossman (CE chair, USA); Seng-Chuan Tan (Advisor, Singapore); **others?**

Observers: Shilpi Jain (CECB member, South Africa); Jean Venables (CEE chair); Roger Venables (CEE secretary, UK); Ashok Basa (National Member, India); J. P. Mohsen (Vice Chair Education Committee, USA); Vilas Mujumdar (National Member, USA); H.C.S Berry (President of the Institution of Engineers India), Avi Menon (managing director of Koleko), Munya Mutyora (Chair the International Panel of SAICE, South Africa) , Jose Vieira(President of FEANI)

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Adopt Agenda
4. Report by Chair
5. Reports by attendees and STCs
6. COP22 report
7. Discussion of action items at the March meeting in Paris
8. Questions to be distributed to STCs
9. New business
10. Closing



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1. **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 1400 hrs. The chair Dr. Vachon welcomed all.

2. **Roll call**

The roll was called

3. **Adopt Agenda**

It was accepted by all participants.

4. **Report by Chair**

WURC has made great progress with the UN based on Eng. Jorge Spitalnik laying the foundation as the 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. WURC has placed WFEO on the UN Stage and WURC is doing great work with no WFEO funding

WFEO participates through WURC in IAEA, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNFCCC The Chair serves on the HLPF Steering Committee, 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 the US subcommittee of WURC. The Chair works with the UN NGO Major Group of Scientific and Technological Communities as WFEO representative. In addition, Donovan Gutierrez - 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 and contributes with the WFEO representation. Andy Reynolds, formerly with US State Dept and former Chair of CSTD UNCTAD, is a member of the US Subcommittee of WURC and is helpful in promoting WFEO.

A WiE member, Stacey M. DelVecchio, attended and prepared a report for the 60th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60, ref.: www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016/) held at the UN in May 2016; the report will be available on the website.

Jorge Spitalnik and Chair represented WFEO at this year's UN IAEA meetings in Vienna, C. Remec represented WFEO at UNIDO meetings and D. Danyluk represented WFEO at UNFCCC meetings.

Engr. Ruomei Li from China attended to the UN HLPF meeting in June 2016 in behalf of



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WFEO

Van Veelen (CECB) discussed a financial issue in the institutionalization of the African-version of the HLPF under the UN Economic Commission in Africa. He indicated there may be a solution working with ICSU.

WFEO representatives to UN meetings are requested to prepare a report on the meeting ASAP to share any information with WFEO members and post on the WFEO website.

5. Reports by attendees and STCs

- CDRM provided 2017 future actions related to DRR in the UN's SDGs (i.e., Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction). WFEO select an aspect of one or more SDGs. A STC is not expected to over commit. A STC cannot be expected to work on all 17 SDGs and the 169 targets. WURC welcomes all input for the UN from the STCs.

6. COP22 report

- The WFEO delegations to the UNFCCC COP22 (Moroccan WFEO members and Engr. Daniel Favrat, the former chair of CEE) attended the COP22 in November 2016, at LET US ASK DANIEL Marrakech, Morocco. A report on the meeting was prepared by ZIZZO Strategy for the COP22. The report shows the implementation of COP for climate change. Note that the ZIZZO Strategy is a strategic consultancy focused on climate change, resiliency, and the move toward the low-carbon economy (ref.: zizzostrategy.com/category/unfccc/).
- WFEO will have a representative (delegation), Ken Durrands, jennydurrands100@hotmail.com DARREL SHOULD ANSWER THIS QUESTION to the UNFCCC SUBSTA meetings and the UNFCCC COP23 in Bonn, Germany in May and November 2017, where the Fiji representative becomes a co-chair. Details on registration process will be circulated when it is available. CEE has participated in past COP meetings because of its work on climate change. The CEE secretariat will work with Darrel Danyluk for COP23.

WURC is the intermediary between all STCs and UN organizations such as UNFCCC and public international bodies to promote collaboration and establish relationships.



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7. Discussion of action items at the March meeting in Paris

Chair reviewed the list of action items in the notes of the meeting of WURC in Paris ,21 March 2016 which is attached.

8. Questions are to be distributed to STCs

WURC will recommend to the Executive Council that a questionnaire be developed to determine what SDG each WFEO STC is pursuing. The WFEO STC activities on SDGs could be highlighted at the proposed 2017 and 2018 WFEO side events. This recommendation is based on a suggested questionnaire by the CEIE

.9. New Business

Activities planned for 2017 and 2018. Efforts are underway to hold side events at the UN High Political Forums in the June /July time frames in 2017 and 2018. The 2017 HLPF will be held 10-19 July 2017. The 2017 side event will be devoted to SDG 9 and the 2018 side event would be devoted to SDG 11. Coincidentally, the Innovative Technologies STC is focusing on SDG9 and SDG 11. Details will be released as they are developed.

7. Discussion of action items at the March meeting in Paris

Contents of the 2016 March meeting in Paris were discussed. What does WFEO contribute to the UN webinars (a seminar via the internet) and meetings in New York through contribution to the UN's SDGs for WFEO visibility across the world?

8. Questions to be distributed to STCs

WURC will recommend to the Executive Council that a questionnaire be developed to determine which if any SDG each STC is pursuing and a series of question to determine how the STC input can be formed to support the side events and the SDGs .Thus, the STC activities on SDGs could be highlighted at the proposed 2017 and 2018 WFEO side events.

9. New business



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Others

- The webinar related to the SDGs, to be held by ASCE on December 13, 2016 was announced and would be possibly posted on the WFEO homepage.
- Announcement by Dr. Vilas Mujumdar (National Member of WFEO) is as follows: ASCE conference on sustainability education based on the UN's SDGs is an international conference, which WFEO members may be interested to participate. The CDRM may possibly participate and the WFEO headquarter will announce the meeting to WFEO National Members.
- The Executive Director will set up STC communication tools on the WFEO website.

10. Closing

The chair stated that any comments from the members are appreciated.

Abbreviations

ASCE	= American Society of Civil Engineers
CDRM	= Committee on Disaster Risk Management
CE	= Committee on Energy
CECB	= Committee on Engineering Capacity Building
CEE	= Committee on Engineering and the Environment
CEIE	= Committee on Education in Engineering
CIP	= Colegio de Ingenieros del Perú - Consejo Nacional (Peruvian Association of Professional Engineers – National Council)
COP	= Conference of the Parties
COP21	= The twenty-first session of the COP in Paris, 2015
COP22	= The twenty-second session of the COP in Marrakech, 2016
DRR	= Disaster Risk Reduction
Engr.	= honorific title of engineer
HLPF	= High Level Political Forum
ICSU	= International Council for Science
IAEA	= International Atomic Energy Agency
OECD	= Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDGs	= Sustainable Development Goals
STC	= Standing Technical Committee
UN	= United Nations
UNFCCC	= UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
WFEO	= World Federation of Engineering Organizations
WURC	= WFEO UN-Relation Committee
YE/FL	= Committee on Young Engineers / Future Leaders



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WORLD FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING ORGANIZATIONS

WFEO United Nations Relations Committee

Monday, March 21, 2016 - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

UNESCO Headquarters, Room XIV – Paris FRANCE

List of Attendees

Name	Organization	Email Address
Reggie Vachon, Chair	AAES – United States	vachonus@gmail.com
Jorge Spitalnik	WFEO President	jspitalnik@hotmail.com
Ruomei Li	Chinese Society of Electrical Engineers – China	ruomei-li@csee.org.cn
Tan Seng-Chuan	Institute of Engineers - Singapore	sctan@engineer.com
Marlene Kanga	WFEO President-Elect	marleneKanga@bigpond.com
Kenichi Tsukahara	Science Council of Japan	tsukahara@doc.kyushu-u.ac.jp
Martin van Veelen	Federation of African Engineering Organizations	martin@iliso.com
Daniel Favrat	Swiss Engineers	daniel.favrat@epfl.ch
Allian Pratt	ASME – United States	pratta@asme.org

Action List

Item	Action	Action by:
1.	It is important to have a presence at the webinars that the UN puts on. Please respond if you can attend. R. Vachon will forward emails with information.	All
2.	Explore the possibility of someone at ASME, which is headquartered in NY to help WFEO on a part-time basis. If ASME	R. Vachon



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	is interested, we can search for other funding sources, other countries or even other foundations to approach.	
3.	Publish the WURC strategy and what we expect from the STCs. Report (short term, one-page statement) on what STCs should deliver against the SDGs.	M. Kanga
4.	The STCs were given a task in December to think about how they can provide input to the SDGs. We need to wait for them to come back with what they think about the charge.	R. Vachon
5.	The STCs have a STC Chairs committee and the WURC needs to develop a mechanism to interact with them. (Yashi Brijmohan is the Chair of the STC Chairs Committee)	Yashi Brijmohan
6.	Distribute the report from the Women in Engineering UN meeting (from Stacey DelVecchio).	R. Vachon

Discussion Summary

Item	Summary of Discussion	Decisions
1.	<p>Review and Update on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</p> <p>A white paper on how engineers can contribute to the SDGs was prepared, sent to the UN, and recently resented.</p> <p>The 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) are being pursued by the United Nations (UN) and they've set up a mechanism to develop a pathway to achieve the SDGs. Recently the intAC Task Force on Global Sustainability met with William Colglazier, former Science and Technology Adviser to the U.S. Secretary of State and currently the co-Chair of the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism for SDGs. He and his co-chair will present a</p>	<p>As a new member of the taskforce on sustainability, we will talk to W. Colglazier about what mechanism he can use to include an engineer on each committee. To make all these groups that work in the UN</p>



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	<p>report in June on the pathways to the STGs. To get a pathway by June will be difficult. Colglazier met with Bill Kelly, Mike Sanio, Andy Reynolds and Reggie Vachon to discuss providing input to the Facilitation Mechanism for support.</p> <p>Life is supposed to be better with the 17 SDGs, however, accomplishing the 17 SDGS will be a long-term process. How do we get engineers worldwide involved? We need to involve engineers on the ground.</p>	<p>understand that they have to hear what we have to say.</p>
2.	<p>We are trying to increase WFEO visibility. This committee needs to establish relations with strategic people within the UN and others associated with the UN.</p> <p>The committee needs to show that we're interested and attend the webinars. Have at least one person on the committee attend each time. It is important to follow the discussions on those webinars.</p>	<p>Reggie will send out information and members should tell him when they can attend.</p>
3.	<p>Research having someone in NY to help solve the problem of having someone local to attend meetings at the UN. This person should be part-time, and a permanent representative of WFEO.</p>	<p>Reggie will explore the possibility of someone at ASME, which is based in NY.</p>
4.	<p>During the last two meetings of the WURC, a strategy was developed allocating the tasks of the SDGs with each standing technical committee (STCs). Each one of the STCs took one or two of the SDGs that were commensurate to their charge and were asked to provide input.</p> <p>STCs have a coordinating committee. We gave them the tasks in December and are waiting for them to come back with what they think about the charge and how they will comply with the proposal made by WURC.</p>	<p>? STCs need to propose projects which align with the SDGs – this will work through the STC Chairs Committee</p>



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	<p>The STCs have to come up with a roadmap.</p> <p>STCs have UN connections individually. We should encourage and support their work and connections.</p>	
5.	<p>There was a Women In Engineering meeting in early March 2016 the UN. Valerie Agneragba who Chairs the WFEO WiE STC contacted Reggie to get Stacey DelVecchio to attend the meeting. It was not easy, with many forms to fill out, but she got in.</p>	<p>Reggie will get a report and share it with the committee.</p>
6.	<p>The chair thanked everyone for their work and friendship. Meeting adjourned at 10:49 am.</p>	