

## **WFEO Executive Council and General Assembly Meeting**

**San Jose, Costa Rica**

**March 8, 9 & 10, 2022**

### **WFEO/UN Relations Committee Report**

The World Federation of Engineering Organizations UN Relations Committee (WURC) is a Policy Implementation Committee, with the mission of engaging with the different UN agencies as well as intergovernmental organizations requiring engineering content, systems, methodologies, and analyses. It is hosted by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) an Affiliate Member of WFEO since March 2021.

WFEO is active in the United Nations as the Co-Chair of the Science and Technology Community Major Group with the International Science Council, the other Co-Chair. WFEO representatives participate in the Science Technology and Innovation Forum and the High-Level Political Forums.

A side event is held each year during these Forums on important issues relating to science, technology, and engineering. WFEO has contributed to position papers on various aspects of engineering and sustainable development. WFEO is also active in other UN agencies including UNIDO, UNEP, UNFCCC, and others.

### **Activities during 2021:**

Dr. K. N. Gunalan and Dr. William Kelly attended post HLPF meetings with MGoS to debrief and start the planning process for 2022.

WURC Chair Dr. K. N. Gunalan and Dr. William Kelly attended the virtual HLPF 2021 and provided interventions from the floor during Thematic Session 3 & 6.

WFEO President Dr. Gong Ke and WURC Chair Dr. K. N. Gunalan participated in a panel discussion at the Triennial the session was moderated by Dr. William Kelly.

WFEO Immediate Past President Dr. Marlene Kanga attended the UN Expert Group Meeting in May 2021 and made a submission on the role of engineering in advancing SDG 8.

WFEO organized a Side Event with ISC and UNESCO at the STI Forum on May 4, 2021 addressing the theme “ Engineering – Bridging the Gap for a Sustainable and Resilient Recovery”.

WURC provided input to the Ministerial Declaration of the High-Level Segment of the 2021 Session of the Economic and Social Council on the annual theme “Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimension of sustainable development building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivering for sustainable development April 2021.

WURC provided input to the STI Forum Script April 6, 2021

WFEO in collaboration with the International Science Council and the International Network for Women Engineers and Scientists made a submission to the UN Women in the framework of the Commission on the status of Women in March 2021.

WFEO President Dr. Gong Ke, Immediate Past President Dr. Marlene Kanga, WURC Chair Dr. K. N. Gunalan participated on a panel discussion on “Roadmap to the 2030 UN SDG’s Advancing Sustainable and Climate Resilient Infrastructure” on March 4, 2021 to commemorate WED 2021.

ASCE under the auspices of WFEO organized a panel discussion on “Developing and Delivering Sustainable Solutions for Global Engineering Challenges” on March 4, 2021 to celebrate WED 2021.

WFEO along with ASCE endorsed another “Declaration for a Climate Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructure” in collaboration with Stimson/ACRE to seek support from a variety of global stakeholders. The declaration was shared at COP 26.

WURC Chair, Dr. K. N. Gunalan as the Co-Chair of the STC MG and Dr. William Kelly have been actively engaged with the Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) since January 2021 on the informal discussions with ECOSOC coordinated through UN DESA on both the ECOSOC / HLPF Process, Ministerial Declaration and with HLPF 2021.

## **Proposed Activities for 2022:**

WURC Chair is now Co-Chair for the MGoS Advocacy Task Group.

Engaging with MGoS in discussions with the President of ECOSOC and UN DESA.

Contributing to development of review process for both STI Forum and HLPF

Author with ISC STC MG position paper for 2022 HLPF

Preparation of STI Forum, HLPF side events May / July

Have submitted a proposal for a side event at Stockholm + 50 June 2-3, 2022