

“ The WFEO UN Relations Committee has achieved greater visibility for WFEO and the work of its Standing Committee at the UN. We hope to continue to build on these and continue to communicate to the UN member states that engineering is crucial to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

K. N. Gunalan,
Chair of WURC,
American Society of Civil Engineers

The WFEO UN Relations Committee (WURC) collaborates with the *International Science Council (ISC)* as co-Chairs of the *Scientific and Technological Community Major Group* and has actively engaged with the other 20 *Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS)* at the UN. As the co-Chair for Advocacy Task Group of the MGoS, the Chair, Dr K. N. Gunalan and Dr. William Kelly engaged in meetings leading up to the UN Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum and High Level Political Forum (HLPF), contributing to both oral and written interventions.

The Committee provided verbal and written consultation on the 2022 Ministerial Declaration and coordinated interventions during the 2022 *STI Forum Thematic Sessions* by Ms. Reine Essobmadge, Cameroon, Ms. Juana Tapel, Philippines, from *WFEO Committee on Women in Engineering* and former WFEO President Dr. Marlene Kanga. The Chair also intervened during Thematic Session 6 and organized a side event during the 2022 STI Forum titled “*Engineering Resilience Through Disaster Risk Management*” in coordination with the *WFEO Committee on Disaster Risk Management*. A side event was organized during the 2022 HLPF titled “*Utilizing Open Science Principles for Quality Engineering Education to Advance UN SDGs*” in coordination with the *WFEO Committee on Education in Engineering*.

The Chair and Dr. William Kelly participated in the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Group meeting organized by the *UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)* at UN Headquarters in January 2023 and participated in Infrastructure, Water, Sustainable Cities, Capacity Building discussions.

WFEO engaged at the *UN Water Conference* at a side event coordinated with the *WFEO Committee on Water*. President Jose Vieira delivered a speech from the podium at the General Assembly hall.

At the recommendation of the Chair, UN DESA invited WFEO to chair a Thematic Session during Africa Day. Dr. Marlene Kanga chaired the session and participated in the discussions leading up to the STI Forum in 2023. At the request of WFEO, UN DESA convened a session on the eve of the 2023 STI Forum which was coordinated with ISC by Dr. William Kelly. This session is to become an ongoing annual event during the STI Forum giving WFEO the high level visibility at the UN and was focussed on engineering solutions for sustainable development. The formal sessions were recorded and are available for viewing on UNWebTV and WFEO website.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



President Jose Vieira, Past Presidents Gong Ke and Marlene Kanga along with William Kelly, Ignacio Gonzalez-Castelao Martinez, K. N. Gunalan highlighted WFEO's engagement and contributions to SDG's #4, #5, #6, #7, #13, #16 and #17 at various UN events.

Again at the request of WFEO, the *Global Solutions Summit* was organized on the final day of the 2023 *STI Forum* in collaboration with WFEO and Global Solutions with a focus on innovations and solutions for sustainable development week and Dr. Marlene Kanga delivered the opening remarks for the session. This session was recorded and is available on UNWebTV and WFEO website.

An important outcome of the *Global Solutions Summit* is the Africa Coalition which includes the 54 Member States of the Africa Union. WFEO has been invited to become a strategic partner of the Coalition with the opportunity to expand current WFEO Committee projects in Africa including those focusing on education and capacity building, natural disaster risk management, action on climate change and sustainable solutions for water and energy.

Key achievements

WFEO has increased its access and visibility at the UN and has raised awareness and understanding of the key role of engineers in implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

"E" is now being used with "STI & E"! We now have a confirmed event during the annual Science Technology and Innovation STI Forum at the UN Headquarters in New York, to showcase WFEO successes and engineering experts to work with UN to meet the 2030 agenda.



Speakers at the WFEO and UNESCO side event at the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, 6 July 2022



Dr Tom Soo, Executive Director of the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR), Eng. Ignacio González-Castelao, Chair WFEO Committee on Water, Prof. José Vieira, WFEO President, Dr K N Gunalan, Chair WFEO UN Relations Committee and Dr Gregory De Costa, Academic Specialist at Open Polytechnic of New Zealand at the WFEO-ISC Side-Event at UN 2023 Water Conference, 23 March 2023



Dr K.N. Gunalan at the UN SDG Summit, 18 September 2023



Dr. KN Gunalan's intervention at the 7th STI Forum, during the thematic Session 6 "Delivering on SDGs: Next Steps for the TFM and its partners", 6 May 2022