

“ Water is a universal good indispensable for life that affects many sectors, giving this resource a social, environmental, and economic dimension. It is a good that knows no borders and, also, conveys many of the impacts of climate change to society.

The WFEO Water Committee brings together all engineering disciplines to have a stronger voice on the water scene, to become more relevant in global water decisions and to remind society and politicians of the importance of engineering contribution to achieving the goals and targets of SDG 6, which is interlinked with the entire UN's Agenda 2030.

Ignacio González-Castelao Martínez-Peñuela,
Chair of CW,
Instituto de la Ingeniería de España

Once the activities of the Working Group on Water were concluded, the WFEO General Assembly, held in Costa Rica in March 2022, approved the transformation of this Working Group into a Standing Technical Committee on Water (CW), also at the proposal of the “Instituto de la Ingeniería de España” (Spain) and the “Ordem dos Engenheiros of Portugal” (Ode).

The CW has currently 35 members (had 14 members in 2022): 20 from WFEO national member organizations, 3 WFEO international members, 1 WFEO associate and 2 WFEO committee representatives. Also, there are 5 delegates appointed by the CW to serve on WFEO Standing Technical Committees.

Since its foundation, the CW has organized and/or participated in different forums highlighting the role of engineering in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG-6 “Clean water and sanitation”, which is interlinked with the entire 2030 Agenda.

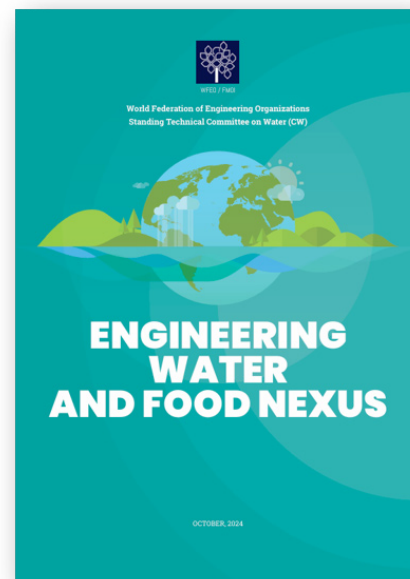


Participation of Ignacio González-Castelao, Chair of WFEO Water Committee, at the 39th UN-Water Meeting, Rome, March 2024



The role of engineers is key to achieving the Agenda 2030, but maybe more visible in SDG-6 and SDG-13. To address the goals and targets of these SDGs, Engineers have expanded their thinking beyond strictly technical solutions, focusing more on environmental and social aspects, such as gender-sensitive planning, human-rights-based approach, “do no significant harm” principle, and leaving-no-one-behind, among others. We must not forget that we, engineers, work with and for society.

Facing present and future water-related challenges (those related to the current development model and climate change, mainly), engineers' capacity today goes far beyond traditional solutions providing the best response (green, blue or/and grey) to each specific case. With particular attention to sustainability, circularity, carbon neutrality and resilience of water sources. Thus, contributing to a sustainable, intelligent, and inclusive development.



Cover of the CW report “Engineering, Water and Food Nexus” released in December 2024

The following are the main activities carried out or participated in by the CW:

- WFEO virtual side event at UN 2023 STI Forum: "Engineering solutions for water adaptation". 4 May 2023
- WFEO Water Committee session on "SDG Goals: Water Challenges" at the 7th World Engineers Convention WEC 2023. 11-13 October 2023. Prague (Czech Republic)
- 39th UN-Water Meeting. 12-13 March 2024. Rome (Italy)
- 10th World Water Forum. 18-25 May 2024. Bali (Indonesia)
- UN - SDG 6 and Water Action Agenda Special Event. 16 July 2024. New York (U.S.A.)
- International Water Association World Water Congress & Exhibition. 11-18 August 2024. Toronto (Canada)
- 3rd Asia International Water Week (member of the International Steering Committee). 23-28 September 2024. Beijing (China)
- International Summit on Water Efficiency, 2 October 2024. Lisboa (Portugal)
- 40th UN-Water Meeting. 4-5 November 2024. New York (U.S.A.)
- Global Water Summit 2025. 12-14 May 2025. Paris (France)



Participation of Prof. Armando Silva Afonso, Vice-Chair of WFEO Water Committee, at the "International Summit on Water Efficiency", Lisbon, 2 October 2024

WFEO achieved the status of "partner" of UN-Water in August 2023. Since then, CW is participating in UN-Water meetings in order to be engaged with the global movement supporting SDG 6. The main issues are now the SDG 6 Accelerating Framework and the "Water Action Agenda".

It is very relevant for the CW to be present in UN-Water initiatives, therefore, CW members are appointed to the different UN-Water Expert Groups and Task Forces. Currently, CW aims to contribute to one of UN-Water's Priority Collaborative Actions (PCA) of the Collaborative Implementation Plan (CIP).

Key achievements

In August 2023, WFEO acquired the status of "partner" of UN-Water. Since then, the WFEO Water Committee (CW) has been participating in UN-Water meetings, and in its Expert Groups and Task Forces in order to be engaged with the global movement to accelerate progress on water and sanitation-related goals and targets.

The CW publishes annually a document to give more visibility to engineering in different water related topics. In December 2024 the CW released the document "Engineering, Water and Food Nexus".

CW has also made its voluntary contribution to:

- "Chapter 7: Transboundary Cooperation" of the United Nations World Water Development Report (UNWWDR) 2024 "Leveraging Water for Peace and Prosperity".
- Journal Water (MDPI) - "Nexus water-energy-nutrients in urban environments". March 2024.
- The book "Water", published in December 2024.

Since 2023, the CW has released the following documents:

- "Engineering, Groundwater, and Integrated Water Resources Management". October 2023.
- "Engineering, Water and Food Nexus". December 2024.



CW participation in the UN-Water Meeting, Rome, March 2024

Banner of the CW webinar "World Water Forum Case studies from France and USA", 17 July 2024