



WFEO United Nations Relations Committee  
Tuesday, 28 November 2017  
Sheraton Roma Hotel, Rome ITALY

### **Draft Minutes**

#### Attendees:

Reggie Vachon (Chair – AAES, USA), Ashok Basa (India), Haro Bederian (ICE – UK), Luis Chivilches (CIP – Peru), Darrel Danyluk (Engineers Canada), Jacques de Méreuil (Executive Director, WFEO), Ingrid Farmer (ICE – UK), Sam Grossman (Energy Committee, USA), Paul Jowitt (CEC – UK), Marlene Kanga (WFEO President-Elect, Engrs Australia), Nobuaki Kimura (CDRM deputy secretary, Japan), Ruomei Li (CAST – China), Martin Manuhwa (CAC), Vilas Mujumdar (AAES – USA), Allian Pratt (AAES – USA), Tan Seng Chuan (IES – Singapore), Jorge Spitalnik (WFEO President), Kenichi Tsukahara (Science Council of Japan), and Martin van Veelen (SAICE – So Africa).

#### **Call to order**

Chair Reggie Vachon called the meeting to order at 14:15. The agenda was approved.

#### **Approval of minutes for Lima meeting**

The minutes of the last WURC meeting in Paris FRANCE were distributed. A change in the spelling of Darrel Danyluk (D-A-R-R-Y-L to D-A-R-R-E-L) was requested. No other changes, additions or corrections of the minutes were offered. The minutes were approved with the name change.

#### **ICSU and Input to the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report**

Unfortunately, Lucilla Spini, the Executive Director of The International Council for Science (ICSU) was not able to join WURC. We have made good progress in establishing our relationships with ICSU and International Social Science Council (ISSC). Both organizations are merging, so we will continue to work with them. There is an open request to provide input to the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report. Bill Kelly will talk more about that later.

#### **United Nations Side Events**

##### *Key points:*

In July, a High Level Political Forum (HLPF) was held. A presentation was made by the participating countries of their activities for 10 minutes each. We participated as WFEO/ICSU and had an opportunity to ask questions.

A Banner with produced with contributions/bullets and displayed at the HLPF event. The banner is seen as an accomplishment at the UN. Lucilla was very helpful during the process. She

introduced us to people at the UN. We hope to have more side events and have attendees participate.

There are very specific processes in working with the UN. If anyone is interested in a ground pass to participate in events, please contact Reggie. You can send him the information and he can go online and get you a pass. For some events they limit participation.

### **Report Card on Global SDGs**

#### *Key points:*

Martin van Veelin raised the idea of a simple way to convey information on the status of infrastructure on the country—the report card concept. Attached is a draft proposal of this concept. Of the 17 SDGs, there are two that speak directly to engineering—water supply and sanitation.

The report card would simply be a way of reporting how each country is doing against the SDG's index. Each country can produce a report card and we (WFEO) submit this at the HLPF. We can develop a program where we can have a work session of regional members and introduce the concept and provide a timing on how/when to do it. We would need some funding and endorsement, which perhaps can be sought at the World Bank or other organizations. We can use the endorsement(s) to open doors. Martin van Veelin proposes that we adopt the project. He has offered to drive/manage it.

#### *Other points:*

- This is a huge effort to undertake.
- Can we identify a shorter list of infrastructures? Allows for this large undertaking to be more manageable.
- Australia - one of the associations - has a framework and we should use it as a frame of reference.
- We need to use a common framework.
- Can we try this as a pilot project? Perhaps take five countries and try this out?
- An idea is to have a side event in NY where we can discuss this, show how it links to specific SDGs.
- Another possibility is to have a WURC workshop on this activity in one of our meetings.
- Produce an example documents of combining global/regional data.
- There is enough information to start looking at how we integrate and convey information on a global scale.
- Paul - Engineers Against Poverty - get some funding from this charity. To get the app produced.

Reggie asked for a task force to begin working on this. Martin van Veelin will serve as the chair. Others who volunteered to be on the task force are Paul Jowitt, Martin Manuha, Vilas Mujumdar, Ruomei Li, Ashok Basa, and Sam Grossman.

They should draft a proposal in January for the July side event.

A red team was also created to vet the proposal. The red team will be chaired by Darrel Danyluk, and will include Tan Seng-Chuan and David Lapp. All should get together and decide how they want to proceed.

We should be able to report on this side event when we meet in London in October. Run it as a session (same as the side event) during the meeting in London.

### **United Nations SDGs**

#### *Key points:*

William Kelly (US) made a presentation on the work being done on behalf of engineering and the SDGs. Half of the goals are engineering intensive, and the opportunity for engineering input is enormous. In particular, this year huge and fundamental areas are water, energy, cities and sustainable production and consumption. The UN is emphasizing the connection.

The presentation can be found at this [link](#). (Run in presentation mode by hitting the present tab on the upper right.)

There is an annual review process for the SDGs. The Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) is on June 5th and 6<sup>th</sup>—the location is unknown at this time. The July meeting is a 10-day meeting. They will talk about the issues during the first 5 days. WFEO should have some messages.

- We can provide input through the major groups. (We're in the science and technology group and work very well with ICSU.)
- There is an opportunity for side events both at the multi-stakeholder forum and the HLPF. In May there isn't competition. In July there is a lot of competition.
- We need a good way to get the word out.
- Any one of the countries could provide input.
- December 1 is the deadline to send information to the UN. Anyone can provide input to the 2019 report.

WURC will encourage STCs to provide input. WURC will review.

For more information, links can be found on the presentation. It is possible that a YouTube video will be produced with Bill's presentation. More information to follow.

Action: Send Reggie and Jacques specific examples of activities that your committee is currently doing that support implementation of the SDG. **March 1, 2018 deadline.**

### **Voluntary National Reviews**

We can contribute to them. Make contact with your focal point for 2018 VNR.

Determine what role the engineering community is playing or could play in supporting achievement of the SDGs at the country level. Report this to Reggie and Jacques by May 1, 2018.

The UN is struggling with getting the word out.

Jacques to find out when UNESCO will come to formally request our contributions and scope of work. We have until the 1st of March to show what contributions we can make. Reggie has asked Bill Kelly to join the committee.

### **COP – Committee on Engineering & Environment**

*Key points:*

COP21 (Paris over 2 years ago) – The UN signed an agreement on climate change. Paris has been the turning point. They've since dealt with all of the rules, and are making progress. COP23 just finished—it is amazing to watch the UN mature. 25,000 delegates were present--we had 3. Negotiators on one side, and tent city is where everyone else went. There were two weeks of talking and sharing information. Negotiators didn't have a clue because they didn't hear the information. There is frustration because it is very difficult to get the engineering voice. Two groups seem to get a lot of attention--indigenous people and women. Cop24 is being held in Poland during the first 2 weeks in December 2019. If you want someone to go, they need to be nominated by the end of June. In May, please send Darrel your request.

Darrel is thinking about any kind of input to SDGs. He previously asked the STCs to provide input on their work on the SDGs. There was no clarity as to what work should be submitted. In the coming year, we'll ask each STC to work on one or more SDGs. Marlene will follow up with each of the chairs. Hopefully we'll get it back within the next year. We should have the information by the March meeting. More focus and attention needs to be made on the alignment between STCs and SDGs.

The Disaster Committee has a different approach to the SDGs. The Japanese chaired the committee; they are now handing it over to Peru. They just held a major conference with the UN Disaster Risk committee. A report was requested. When it is available, please send it to Reggie.

What would you like to see in 2019 - STI and HLPF? We should start discussing.

### **Adjourn**

Jorge congratulated the WURC committee at having reached a high level of productivity and getting WFEO recognized. WURC is a key strategic committee for WFEO. It would be good to raise our profile against the other agencies, as well. There is a UN environment agency located in Kenya. They have an important meeting in December. The Committee on Engineering and the Environment (CEE) has a member from Kenya who attends these meetings and provides updates to CEE.

There is also a UN agency for Europe that is based in Geneva. We have a member there that is willing to attend these meetings and raise our profile. In addition, the new member from Switzerland is now going to be the link to the metrological group at these meetings.

The chair thanked everyone for their work and friendship.

Meeting adjourned at 17:29.