



World Federation of Engineering Organizations Fédération Mondiale des Organisations d'Ingénieurs

WFEO Statement for 2020 International Women in Engineering Day

The International Women in Engineering Day takes place on Tuesday 23rd June. This is an annual event initiated by WFEO's Committee on Women in Engineering member Dawn Bonfield MBE, in 2014, with the support of the UK National Commission for UNESCO. It is an opportunity to focus on women – not only women in engineering and the work they do, but also to reflect the need for more gender diversity and inclusion in the engineering sector, and consider the role that engineering and technology plays in addressing some of the disproportionate disadvantages faced by women around the world.

The World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) is the peak international organization for the engineering profession, bringing together national engineering institutions from some 100 nations and representing more than 30 million engineers. It is based in Paris at UNESCO headquarters. WFEO is committed to engineering for the global Sustainable Development Goals, including gender equality goals.

The WFEO's Committee on Women in Engineering (WIE) is a global network of female engineers from over 50 different countries around the world, working together towards four overarching themes: Engineering Workforce Diversity and Capacity Building; Female Leadership and Empowerment; Engineering Strategic Indicators; and the Role of Engineering to deliver progress against the Sustainable Development Goals, in relation to gender equality.

Through its international membership, WIE is working to measure the number of women in the engineering pipeline and workforce worldwide, and is identifying barriers to the progress of these women engineers. The WIE partners on programs to build capacity, provide mentoring and showcases the work of role models and members through events and publications. WIE has a close and vibrant online community, the value of which has been illustrated all too clearly during the Covid-19 pandemic, as we supported one another, whilst also comparing the impact of the virus on our own individual communities, and on the lives of women in particular.

INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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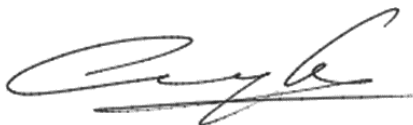
Website : www.wfeo.org

One of our aspirations for the coming year is to work collectively to ensure that the use of technology to address the pandemic is equally effective for the lives and roles of women, as it is for men.

On this International Women in Engineering Day, WFEO and its Committee on Women in Engineering members and associates commit to collectively consider the impact of our work on all under-represented groups in engineering, and that the use of engineering and technology is accessible to all, makes society more inclusive and a better place that leaves no-one behind. Engineering is a sector that requires the joint efforts of male and female engineers, and is key to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

On this 2020 International Women in Engineering Day, those are the key principles for action we stand for:

- We call engineers to actively promote gender equality, diversity and inclusion, which should be the basic principle for engineering planning, design, implementation and management;
- We call on all engineering education stakeholders for transformation to attract more girls and build a solid foundation for their career development;
- We call on public and private sectors to ensure equal opportunities of work, development and progress for male and female engineers, and all under-represented groups;
- We call on the UN and Member States to intensify engineering capacity building efforts especially in developing countries and for female engineers;
- We call all engineers, women and men, in every country, to work together to fight against COVID-19 and to pursue a truly transformative recovery, which includes and appreciates the efforts of all– *Build Back Better*.



Prof. Gong Ke
President of World Federation of Engineering Organizations



Yetunde Holloway, Chair of WFEO
Committee on Women in Engineering

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