

Kuwait Declaration
Statement from
World Federation of Engineering Organizations - WFEO
and
Kuwait Society of Engineers - KSE
November 5, 2009

On the eve of the Copenhagen discussions on climate change, the World Federation of Engineering Organizations in partnership with Kuwait Society of Engineers assembled engineers from 100 countries worldwide to debate alternative energy options and challenges, and the contribution to sustainable development. The engineering community will continue to update the state-of-the-art of such options in future meetings in Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 2010 and Geneva, Switzerland, September 2011.

Meeting the world's growing energy demand and at the same time addressing serious concerns about greenhouse gas contributions to climate change are enormous challenges today and endangers the living conditions for future generations.

Engineers worldwide believe that to meet expected energy demand, all energy options must be considered, including energy efficiency, renewables, cleaner and less carbon intensive fossil fuel, as well as nuclear. There is no one simple or uniform solution to meet the expected demand for energy. The optimum mix for a particular country will depend on available resources, population distribution, growth and existing technical and economic capacity and development.

"The world is wasting energy; a substantial part of the needed GHG reductions can be achieved by wiser use of energy". Energy efficiency, conservation, and savings in transport, households and industry are very important means to accomplish this. Significant reductions in carbon emissions can be realized by increasing energy efficiency and the use of technology available today. According to some studies, it has been shown that "it is possible to make substantial GHG reductions over the short and the long-term, to meet the project target of 50 - 85% average global reduction by 2050"*.

The impact of climate change is posing a serious risk to infrastructure that supports the economy – natural disasters, transportation, energy, agriculture, water and wastewater treatment. All stakeholders – private sector, governments, professionals and civil society - must work quickly to ensure that these systems will continue to operate effectively. The engineering community has the knowledge, expertise and experience needed to adapt existing technologies and systems taking into account the changing climate.

WFEO pledges:

- to actively engage with government policy makers to ensure they have relevant information on all feasible options;
- to inform decision makers about risks and how best to adapt civil infrastructure in order to avoid negative impacts of climate change;
- through national members of WFEO, to strongly pursue options that will mitigate risks and reduce carbon emissions;
- to promote young engineers participation and fully engage women engineers to assure their effective involvement at all levels.

WFEO through its ten international members and eighty national members, representing over 15 million engineers worldwide, is an international non-governmental organization.

*The Future Climate: Engineering Solutions, Issued by Danish Society of Engineers, IDA, 2009