

WFEO PARTICIPATION IN 2018 UN HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) 8 to 19 July 2018 Summary

PARTICIPANTS:

WFEO participants were Dr. GONG Ke (President-elect), Dr. R. Vachon (Chair WURC) and Dr. W. Kelly (Deputy Chair WURC). The three participated during the first week and Dr. Vachon participated the second week

PROGRAM:

The two-week program which began on 9 July can be seen at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018/programme>.

The 9 Major Groups met on 8 July for briefings in the “UN Church Center” and each morning at 8:00am the Steering Group met. Dr. Kelly and Dr. Vachon from WFEO and Nora Papp, Charles Ebikeme and Johannes Mengel from ISC attended for information for the day and to plan interventions.



WFEO Executive Vice President Reginald Vachon at first MGoS Steering Group Meeting

The main events on 9 July in the Main Conference room 4 were

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Opening Session](#) [Video](#) also [Video](#) [Video](#)

[Implementing the 2030 Agenda for resilient societies](#) [Video](#)

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all](#) [Video](#)

with numerous parallel side events from 1315 through 2000 hrs

The main events on 10 July in the main conference room 4 were

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Thematic review: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies-Building resilience](#)

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Advancing science, technology and innovation for SDGs](#) [Video](#)

1:00PM – 6:00PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all](#) [Video](#)



WFEO President Elect at Plenary Session on Goal 7

with numerous parallel side events from 1315 through 2000 hrs. The WFEO side event [STC for Sustainable and Resilient Societies](#) 6:30 to 8:00

The main events on 11 July in the main conference room 4 were

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Thematic review: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies SIDS perspective](#)

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Thematic review: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies Perspectives of LDCs, LLDCs and MICs](#)

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable](#) [Video](#)

with numerous parallel side events from 1315 through 2000 hrs.

The main events on 12 July in the main conference room 4 were

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Thematic review: Implementing the SDGs: lessons from the regions](#)

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Thematic review: Perspectives of society: Session organized with major groups and other stakeholders](#)
[Video](#)

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns](#)
[Video](#)

with numerous parallel side events from 1315 through 2000 hrs. The ISC side event [Managing interactions between SDGs for transformation](#)



ISC Side Event - WFEO Executive Vice President Reginald Vachon made a presentation

The main events on 13 July in the main conference room 4 were

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss](#) [Video](#)

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 17 – Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development](#) [Video](#)

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Leaving No One Behind: are we succeeding? Video](#)

Official meeting

6:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Wrap-up of the first week](#)

- [Wrap-up of the first week](#)

with numerous parallel side events from 0815 to 2045.

The main events on 16 July in the main conference room 4 were

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Opening of HLS / Ministerial segment](#)

Official meeting

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Voluntary national reviews / Introduction of video](#)

Official meeting

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[Reporting on regional forums](#)

Official meeting

3:30 PM - 3:35 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[Address by UNEA President](#)

Official meeting

3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Voluntary national reviews](#)

Official meeting

3:35 PM - 6:00 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber,

with numerous parallel side events from 0830 through 2000 hrs

The main events on 17 July in the main conference room 4 were

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Voluntary national reviews](#)

Official meeting

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[Voluntary national reviews](#)

Official meeting

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[General debate](#)

Official meeting

3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Voluntary national reviews](#)

with numerous parallel side events from 0800 thru 2030.

The main events on 18 July in the main conference room 4 were

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Voluntary national reviews](#)

Official meeting

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[General debate](#)

Official meeting

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

[Voluntary national reviews](#)

Official meeting

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[Keynote speech by the Secretary -General](#)

Official meeting

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[Closing of the HLPF](#)

with numerous parallel side events from 0730 through 2100 hrs

The main event on 19 July was a continuation of the ECSOC debate and Dr. Vachon presents the WFE0 -ISC S&T recommendation with the WFE0 Paris Declaration.

300PM - 5:00 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

[General debate](#)

There were over 300 side events .

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

The VNRs are Voluntary National Reports by UN Member countries on the progress each has achieved on the 17 SDGs

2018 VNRs

The countries presenting in 2018 were Andorra, Canada ,Dominican Republic ,Egypt ,Lao PDR Senegal ,Ecuador, Kiribati, Lithuania ,Mali, Guinea, Greece, Mexico, UAE, Lebanon, Romania, Bahamas, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Singapore, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Paraguay and Qatar

2019 VNRs

The countries expressing interest in presenting VNRs at the 2019 HLPF for the first time: Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Eritrea, Fiji, Ghana, Iceland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nauru, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Saint Lucia, Serbia, South Africa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, and Vanuatu.

The following countries will be conducting voluntary national reviews at the 2019 HLPF for the second time: Azerbaijan, Chile, France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Philippines and Sierra Leone.

PRESENTATIONS AT WFEO AND ISC SIDE EVENTS:

WFEO conducted the side event STC for Sustainable and Resilient Societies on 10 July. Dr GONG and Dr. Vachon made presentations, Dr. GONG's presentation was Engineering - A Key to Sustainable and Resilient Societies. Dr. Vachon's presentation was Science and Engineering in support of the SDGs. Dr. Kelly moderated the side event. Other's making presentations and topics were Anna Persic, Programme Specialist UNESCO Liaison Office New York attended and brought greetings from UNESCO Paris, and Donovan Guttieres - Children and Youth Major Group - presented an overview of Children and Youth activities.

ISC conducted the side event Managing interactions between SDGs to drive SDG implementation from local to global levels, and long-term transformations on 12 July. Dr. Vachon's presentation was MANAGING SDG INTERACTIONS for Society & Communities. The side event was moderated by Ruben Zondervan, Earth System Governance Project Office & Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future.

Others making presentations and topics:

- Nebojsa Nakicenovic, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis: The World in 2050 – building a broad narrative and quantitative pathways to achieve the 17 SDGs
- Peter Messerli, Centre for Development and Environment, Co-chair of the independent group of scientists to draft the 2019 GSDR: Mobilizing science towards transformation pathways for sustainable development
- Joseph Alcamo, University of Sussex Sustainability Programme: Acting on SDG Interactions
- Karina Barquet, Stockholm Environment Institute: Understanding systemic impacts to guide SDG implementation

PRESENTATION AT SPECIAL EVENT

WFEO moderated and made a presentation as part of the education event [Effective tools employed by Major Groups and other Stakeholders in the 2030 Agenda implementation, follow-up and review](#) [Video](#) [Program with Powerpoints](#). WFEO had submitted a proposal for a

stand-alone event but because of limited slots, WFEO's request was joined with four other NGOs.

ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED SIDE & SPECIAL EVENTS

Participation in the main events prevented extensive participation in side events. Dr. Kelly and Dr. Vachon attended the following side events in addition to the WFEO and ISC side events.

- [Global Progress on Water and Sanitation](#)
- [Financing Water Cooperation](#)
- [Leaving No One Behind Through Data Revolution: Evidences from Bangladesh](#)
- [Transformative Pathways towards sustainable and resilient societies in 2030 and beyond](#)
- Leveraging innovative partnerships with higher education institutions towards sustainable and resilient societies" SDGs Learning, Training and Practice [Video](#)
- [Higher Education Sustainability Initiative Global Event](#) [Video](#)
- Participatory Approaches to Sanitation: Learning from Bangladesh [Video](#)
- [Advancing the 2030 Agenda in a Context of Uncertainty - The use of Strategic Foresight for Adaptive and Future-Ready SDG Strategies](#) [Video](#)

CIVIL SOCIETY ECOSOC DEBATE

WFEO represented ISC and WFEO on the last day of ECOSOC debate. The written text of the presentation with the WFEO Paris Declaration was incorporated into the record of the ECOSOC debate. The statement is at [link](#) and the Paris Declaration is [here](#).

High-level Policy Dialogue with the International Financial and Trade Institutions on "Where are we heading? Visions and projections for the future of the SDGs" [DRAFT Program pdf](#)

Thematic discussion on "Leveraging new technologies for the SDGs" (3:00 – 5:00 PM) [DRAFT Program pdf](#)

Videos

[19 Jul 2018 - 49th-A meeting \(Part 2\): Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration. Conclusion of the high-level segment.](#)

[19 Jul 2018 - 1\) ECOSOC high-level policy dialogue with international financial and trade institutions. 2\) Where are we heading? Visions and projections for the future of the SDGs.](#)

[19 Jul 2018 - 49th-A meeting \(Part 1\): ECOSOC 2018 thematic discussion - Leveraging new technologies for the SDGs.](#)

[20 Jul 2018 - 49th-B meeting: General debate \(conclusion\).](#) See STC Statement at 1:36:21



WFEO Executive Vice President Reginald Vachon addressing ECOSOC session

BANNER

WFEO had a banner in the display as pictured.



you may enlarge to read banned

PARIS DECLARATION

[The Paris Declaration](#) was made available to attendees at major events in Conference room 4.

ISC -WFEO PIZZA EVENING

ISC arranged for a pizza evening on Wednesday of the first week and WFEO and ISC and others attended

2019 HLPF

GOALS: The sets of Goals to be reviewed in depth for the remainder of the current cycle will be Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14 in 2017; Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15 in 2018; and **Goals 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16 in 2019 with SDG 17 to be discussed each year.**

VNRs: Approximately 42 countries

WFEO SIDE EVENT: WFEO needs to propose a side event relative to education and participate in other side events, especially Children and Youth MG.

Follow Ups for 2018

- For the education event this year there is an opportunity to provide additional material by September 20th? Possible request to education and capacity building committees.

- The HLPF Steering Group has a follow-on discussion on the following by phone on 11 Sept 2018
 - Clarify primary & alternate SG representatives (a few people were added to the email lists and Whatsapp group to facilitate HLPF coordination, but we now need to restore clarify representatives);
 - Conduct an overall review of the HLPF and our “performance” as SG, including addressing some of the issues raised by the business & industry MG with respect to the final declaration;
 - Follow-up the cases of intimidations that have been reported and decide how to proceed;
 - Decide if and how to prepare a collective MGoS “post mortem” assessment or final declaration of HLPF 2018 and chart the engagement agenda for the HLPF review process;
 - Finalize the collection and uploading of the statements, both for the Expert Segment, the Ministerial Segment (i.e. VNRs) and the ECOSOC HL Meeting;
 - Take a final decision on the independent MGoS website;
 - Initiate the HLPF 2019 engagement process, including the proposal for the early establishment of VNR groups and SDG-under-review groups;
 - Follow-up the ToR process, both in terms of codification of procedures and follow-up with new potential constituencies;
 - Explore an outreach and communication agenda to strengthen the ranks of the Coordination Mechanism and expand participation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. WFEO National Members should take note of the countries that will make VNRs in 2019 and try to work with their respective countries to provide input based on STC activities with SDGs.
2. WFEO should propose side Events on Education and Capacity Building (Goal 4), Climate Change (Goal 13), and Anti-corruption (Goal 16).
3. WFEO should propose joint side events with ISC and Children and Youth and others.
4. WFEO should prepare intervention statements for thematic reviews and for the VNRs
5. WFEO should provide an update on WFEO activities to support implementation of SDGs
6. WFEO should seek to coordinate sectoral paper with ISC
7. WFEO should look at possible education eventad side event next year on engineering education and capacity building