

31. World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development

The General Conference,

Recalling 206 EX/Decision 36,

Having examined document 40 C/64,

Considering that greater global awareness and understanding of the role of engineering in modern life is essential to mitigate the impact of climate change and advance sustainable development, especially in Africa and the small island developing states (SIDS),

Stressing that engineering is essential for economic advancement and for the implementation of new technologies and the application of science, including for basic needs of food, health, housing, roads and transport, water, energy and management of the planet's resources,

Noting the broad and significant impact of recent initiatives of UNESCO's programmes in the basic and engineering sciences and the enthusiastic commitment of the international engineering community to continue to work with UNESCO on internationally coordinated advocacy activities,

Recognizing that it is vital that the achievements of earlier UNESCO initiatives in science and education are effectively followed up and strengthened,

Also recognizing the commitment of UNESCO and its Member States to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as it will contribute to interdisciplinary and human sciences for and with society to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Further recognizing the need to address gender segregation in engineering by showcasing important engineering role models and developing programmes to encourage more girls to consider engineering as a career,

Recognizing that engineering has been changing the world for millennia and that the new rapidly emerging technologies are an opportunity for positive transformation that leaves no one behind,

Acknowledging the driving role of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) together with the Federation of African Engineering Organizations (FAEO), Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP), Pan-American Federation of Engineering Societies (UPADI), European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI), International Federation of Engineering Education Societies (IFEES), and more than 75 other institutions including women-in-engineering networks and engineering academies, in the conception of a world engineering day for sustainable development, as well as in the organization and mobilization of partners for celebrations and events annually around this day,

1. Welcomes and endorses the proposal of the Executive Board to proclaim a world engineering day for sustainable development;
2. Proclaims 4 March of every year World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development;
3. Invites Member States to provide extrabudgetary funds to enable the Director-General to ensure the participation of UNESCO in the promotion and celebration of World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development.

Resolution adopted on the report of the SC Commission at the 16th plenary meeting, on 25 November 2019.