Statement by the World Federation of Engineering Organisations, United Nations Secretary General Youth Advisors on Climate Action, Major Group for Children and Youth the Youth Science-Policy Interface Platform (SPI)

At the 2021 High-Level Political Forum Side Event

"Deploying Global Youth Capacity in UN Policy and Engineering for SDG 13"

Friday 9 July 2021, 13:00-14:30 Eastern/NY time

According to the advance unedited copy of 2021 report of the Secretary-General on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C, scientists recommend that by 2030 global emissions should be cut by 45% compared to 2010 levels. Compared to 2010, emissions from developed countries fell by approximately 6.2% in 2019, while emissions from developing countries (comprising 70 countries) rose by 14.4% in 2014.

Climate-specific financial support reported by Annex I Parties continues to increase, reaching an annual average of $48.7 billion in 2017-2018. This represents an increase of 10% over the previous 2015–2016 period on a comparable basis. While over half of all climate-specific financial support in the period 2017-2018 was targeted to mitigation actions, the share of adaptation support is growing, and many countries are prioritizing adaptation in their provision of financial support.

Despite setbacks from COVID-19, preliminary data show global greenhouse gas emissions increased in 2020. Climate change puts the achievement of many SDGs at risk. In order to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels as called for in the Paris Agreement, global efforts would need to reach net zero CO2 emissions globally around 2050.

Source: Advance unedited copy of 2021 report of the Secretary-General on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal13)

Young people are a critical stakeholder in reaching SDG 13 targets by 2050 and promoting national initiatives aligned to the UN targets and recommendations. Meaningful youth engagement in the design, implementation, follow-up, and review of policies that emerge from the UN is critical to establish initiatives to accelerate progress on SDG 13. Young engineers are critical in providing solutions to meet the targets; however, the coordinated capacity between the community of global young engineers and youth engaged in UN-related sustainable development processes has yet to be fully deployed.

The World Federation of Engineering Organisations is the engineering organization representing 30 million engineers. Its Young Engineers Committee set-up a working group on SDG 13 to create the largest global young engineers' collaboration platform on SDG 13 for a fair transition. Our top priorities are climate neutral technologies, resource efficiency, resilient infrastructure; and development of STEM skills required to meet the exponential changes in technologies and in the labour market due to COVID-19 economic crisis.

The Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) is the UN General Assembly-mandated, official, formal and self-organised mechanism for young people to meaningfully engage in certain UN processes related to sustainable development. Within the MGCY, the Youth Science-Policy Interface Platform (SPI) was created to enhance the meaningful institutional engagement of youth within the science, technology and innovation (STI) and science-policy interface (SPI) architecture of the UN and beyond.

The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) on Climate Change brings the voices of young people into high-level decision making and advises the Secretary-General on the implementation of his 2020-21 Climate Change Strategy.

Together, these three global youth stakeholder networks have organised a joint side event during UN HLPF 2021 to discuss how young people across the globe can work with WFEO Young Engineers in deploying global youth capacity for climate action and **commit for joint collaboration on the following :**

1. Supporting WFEO National Member Organisations Young Engineers in preparing a strategy for SDG 13 initiatives addressing national challenges and opportunities in climate mitigation / adaptation engineering measures which are aligned to and contribute to the YAG and MGCY SDG 13 initiatives.

2. Sharing the YAG and MGCY best practises and initiatives for attracting and upskilling the talents in STEM for SDG 13 with WFEO National Member Organisations Young Engineers for the accelerated COVID-19 recovery in line with the demands arising from the green investments.

3. Sharing the information on planned contribution and participation at COP 26 main and side events and seeking for joint participation at COP 26 for added greater value to climate action.