Comments to the document: Contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Writing on behalf of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), we are pleased to see infrastructure playing an important role in this document. We welcome the draft text as we feel it aligns with our own aims on using engineering to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and especially with those of the WFEO Standing Technical Committee on Engineering and the Environment. We indeed approve the role of infrastructure within this document, kindly requesting to include engineering where appropriate.

We would also like to propose that a previously removed sentence on page five be reinstated in the document (the first strikethrough sentence is the wording to reinstate) as the two concepts can coexist and they are both important:

Addressing this gap will unleash widespread transformation as developed sustainably, infrastructure can be a central vehicle for accelerated action in achieving the 2030 Agenda. Developing countries should continue to be supported to develop sustainable, accessible and resilient quality infrastructure as the long lifespan of newly built assets means that today’s decisions will have long-lasting impacts on our planet and future generations.

Finally, we would like to propose a minor but important change to a sentence on page ten. We would like to emphasize the importance of both mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and therefore we request the following amendment:

Promoting sustainable infrastructure to meet development needs while ensuring the preservation of biodiversity and both mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Thank you for considering the above amendments to this document.

Yours Sincerely,

March 19th, 2020
Davide Stronati, Chair of the Committee on Engineering and Environment, on behalf of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations