

## Smart diversity strategies for shaping a sustainable future

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In September 2015, the world came together at the United Nations to agree on the sustainable development goals which will shape the future of our planet for the next 15 years. These cover diverse areas such as health and education, environment and resources, including energy and water and for sustainable cities. They recognize that an integrated approach for sustainable development is essential for all people, the planet, for prosperity and for partnerships for peace.

Women have a key role in achieving the sustainable development goals, especially scientists and engineers. Science, engineering and technology will be needed to develop and implement solutions to achieve the sustainable development goals.

The World Federation of Engineering Organizations provides engineers with a voice at the highest international levels – at the United Nations and its various agencies. Together with our international partners in science and engineering, including the International Network for Women Engineers and Scientists and its members such as the Korean Woman Science and Engineering Association, we have a voice and must use it to put forward the key issues for policy makers and governments to consider and to establish frameworks for implementing and monitoring progress in achieving the sustainable development goals.

With the rapid advance of science and technology and increasing innovations in a wide range of fields, it has been increasingly important to consider the impact of science, technology and innovation on women – at home and at work. Technological and digital developments will impact women's current jobs creating large upheavals. It is imperative that women receive the necessary educational opportunities to develop skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to equip them for the jobs of the future. Women with skills in science technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) will be equipped for the jobs of the future which will increasingly be technologically based.

Women also need to be encouraged to return to work and to continue to make a contribution to the economic growth of their countries when they start having their families. Importantly women also need to be mentored and supported to take up leadership roles. This presentation will discuss the rationale for attracting and retaining women in science, technology and engineering and their essential role in shaping a future sustainable world. It will also present innovative strategies for organizations to have a more diverse and inclusive culture and will draw on successes in other countries as examples of practical approaches to this important issue.

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