

## ECE-RCEM SDG 13 STATEMENT FOR EXPERT GROUP MEETING

Declines in green-house gas emissions due to the pandemic are set to be reversed during the recovery, absent deep structural changes. While there will be emphasis on restoring economic growth during the recovery phase, an accelerated deployment of technologies that reduce the global carbon footprint could move the world decisively towards addressing climate change and unsustainable consumption and production. It is estimated that the window of opportunity for making the necessary transformations may closing fast – at the same time, a number of major economies have made carbon neutrality commitments.

- What broad-based transformations are needed in consumption and production systems (including food systems) to arrest climate change and rebalance the relationship between human society and nature?
- How can such transformations address concerns about being left behind, providing viable alternatives for those at risk of losing jobs and livelihoods, while also achieving universal access and eradicating multi-dimensional poverty?
- What are the opportunities to be realized (and pitfalls to be avoided) in the immediate and medium terms towards these ends? How can international cooperation support?

Yvette Ramos= See reference

<https://www.wfeo.org/the-wfeo-declaration-on-climate-emergency/> if you want to take some abstract from the declaration

[https://www.wfeo.org/wp-content/uploads/declarations/WFEO\\_Declaration\\_on\\_Climate\\_Emergency\\_2019.pdf](https://www.wfeo.org/wp-content/uploads/declarations/WFEO_Declaration_on_Climate_Emergency_2019.pdf)

Session guiding questions

1. Parallel sessions on in-focus SDGs (1,2,3,8,10,12,13,16,17)

What is the current status of the Goal or target, in terms of actual measured progress and trends?

What has changed since the last time this Goal was reviewed at the HLPF?

o Any deviations in progress from what was expected (including due to Covid)?

- o Additional obstacles or opportunities in implementation including through interlinkages with other Goals, and connections to related processes?
- o New/promising openings for tracking progress, including from additional data sources?

What are promising strategies to accelerate action (by UN and partners) and to mobilize other stakeholders to advance implementation?

The crises of climate breakdown are the most serious issues of our time. Our major infrastructure systems of transport, energy, water, waste, telecommunications and flood defences play a major part, accounting for a vast portion of energy-related carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions whilst also having a significant impact on our natural habitats. Our primary purpose has always been progressing and enhancing the societal well-being. While we have seen major improvements to practice over the last 20 years, for everyone working in the construction and infrastructure industries, it has now become clear that meeting the needs of our society without breaching the earth's ecological boundaries will demand a paradigm shift.

### **Recommendations**

- Continue to raise awareness of the climate emergency and the urgent need for action amongst all stakeholders within the National Members and with Governments. Extend the sharing of knowledge and research to these ends on an open source basis to promote and incentivise capacity building in the areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Upgrade existing built infrastructure systems where possible for extended use as a more carbon-efficient alternative to demolition and new build when that is the most efficient solution for whole-life carbon and inclusive social outcomes. Accelerate the shift to circular economy principles and low embodied carbon materials in all our work.
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