ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP GROUP MANIFESTO

Engineering leaders future-proofing infrastructure for people and planet: a call for decisive action and radical collaboration among all infrastructure stakeholders.

The Engineering Leadership Group (ELG) advocates for infrastructure that is fit for the future and leaves no one behind. To realize this vision:

› Priority needs to be given to developing infrastructure, be it building new or retrofitting, that supports sustainable development and delivers positive outcomes for society and natural ecosystems.

› Funding investments and financing for equitable, sustainable, resilient infrastructure must be urgently unlocked across the globe, particularly in low- to middle-income communities where basic access to infrastructure services is still lacking. Pre-development funding is especially necessary to build the right project pipelines.

› The transition to resilient net-zero infrastructure needs to be achieved through integrated climate mitigation and adaptation pathways that incorporate circularity and span across the lifecycle and the value chain of infrastructure.

› In order to ensure continued provision of essential services and minimize losses, damages and disruptions, risk reduction and resilience need to become embedded in all phases of infrastructure decision-making.

› The development of improved policies, codes and standards that integrate climate action should accelerate and be accompanied by urgent upskilling and education for a more robust, inclusive, and diverse workforce across the globe.

Engineering-inclusive organizations have a key role to play in developing the equitable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure that our society and planet need. In particular, private sector engineering-inclusive organizations need to take action and work with governments to:

› Create policy and regulatory frameworks that better enable equitable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure development opportunities;

› Get engineering-inclusive organizations involved in the early stages of development of infrastructure to positively influence prioritization of projects with the highest potential to deliver systemic change;

› Improve vulnerability and climate risk assessments to bolster infrastructure funder, investor and financer confidence;

› Develop scalable, cost-effective and transformative infrastructure solutions that appropriately incorporate nature-based solutions and deliver value to communities;

› Leverage modern digital technologies and enable data-driven, evidence-based decision-making across the full lifecycle to embed sustainability and resilience in infrastructure;

› Go beyond minimum compliance and support the development of performance-based codes and standards that get the industry past its historic lowest-capital-cost design mentality, and result in best holistic value with sustainability and resilience in mind;

› Work with educational institutions to ensure that the industry workforce is diverse, available in sufficient numbers where needed, and prepared with the right skills and capabilities to accelerate implementation of sustainable development goals and resilience mainstreaming.