

Policy Framework for Sustainable Development

Preamble:

Consulting Engineers South Africa, CESA is a voluntary association of firms of Consulting Engineers and allied professionals. CESA is a member of the International Federation of Associations of Consulting Engineers, FIDIC. The wide range of objectives of CESA and FIDIC are covered in the respective organisations' constitutions.

The Goal of Sustainable Development is to “meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. (*World Commission on Environmental Development. Our Common Future. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 1987, P43*). As key forces in Society, CESA and its member firms have an important role to play in achieving the goal of Sustainable Development. Accordingly CESA adopts the long standing commitment of FIDIC to Sustainable Development.

Statement of Commitment

The consulting engineering industry is largely responsible for designing, planning and managing the many elements of the built and natural environment that are needed to meet the world's ever increasing demand for water, sanitation, energy, food, shelter and economic security.

In the case of the built environment, facilities are generally supplied on a project basis. Our industry's unequivocal commitment to sustainable development thus aims to ensure that its approaches to all aspects of the project cycle which it influences are continuously updated to reflect the latest management practices and legislative requirements.

One of the key challenges of sustainable development is that it demands new and innovative choices and ways of thinking. While developments in knowledge and

technology are contributing to economic development, they also have the potential to help resolve the risks and threats to the sustainability of our social relations, environment and economies. These developments are also challenging organisations to make new choices in the way their operations, products, services and activities impact the earth, people and economies.

CESA and its member firms commit to undertaking projects in a manner which is transparent and in the best interests of our physical and social environment.

Key Indicators

Sustainability has many key indicators and the degree to which these are applicable in any country depend on its state of social, physical and economic development. For example, the USA and Europe are currently focusing on environmental sustainability and depletion of natural resources while in South Africa the sustainability of our social environment and bringing everyone into the mainstream economy is seen to be of great importance. The purpose of this policy framework is not to rule on the relative importance of aspects of sustainability but rather to promote awareness of the sustainability issues of our time amongst our member firms and individuals. It is noted that sustainability does not only imply the individual project interventions such as making a building “green” or compliance with environmental legislation. It is much wider and should become a new way of working for consulting engineers.

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) identifies 6 categories of sustainability indicators viz:

1. Human Rights

- Investment and Procurement Practices
- Non-discrimination
- Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining
- Child Labour

- Forced and Compulsory Labour
- Security Practices
- Indigenous Rights

2. Environment

- Materials
- Energy
- Water
- Biodiversity
- Emissions, Effluent and Waste
- Products and Services
- Compliance
- Transport
- Overall

3. Economic

- Economic Performance
- Market Presence
- Indirect Economic Impacts

4. Labour Practices and Decent Work

- Employment

- Labour/Management Relations
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Training and Education
- Diversity and Equal Opportunity

5. Product

- Customer Health and Safety
- Product and Service Labelling
- Market Communications
- Customer Privacy
- Compliance

6. Society

- Community
- Corruption
- Public Policy
- Anti-competitive Behaviour
- Compliance

Member firms are encouraged to download the relevant documents from <http://www.globalreporting.org/ReportingFramework/ReportingFrameworkDownloads/> to assess how clients or members may want to report on their progress towards sustainability.

Member firms should also follow the development of FIDIC's new Project Sustainability Management (PSM) guidelines closely as these provide an indication of the various elements of sustainability and how to manage these within the project cycle.

Lastly, member firms should be aware of organisations that assist in managing sustainable developments on a commercial basis such as One Planet Living (OPL) in the United Kingdom (UK). Their guidelines and procedures are also useful and can assist clients in ensuring more sustainable developments.

Concluding Remarks

Member firms should ensure that they maintain a good awareness of sustainability issues at all times and to be mindful of the fact that these comprise wide-ranging areas of interest as listed above and not merely environmental sustainability or a reduction in the consumption of natural resources.

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PRESIDENT



CEO

1 OCTOBER 2010

Date

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