ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

IEA RENEWS SA`S SYDNEY AND DUBLIN ACCORDS FOR A FURTHER SIX YEARS

The International Engineering Alliance (IEA) has renewed the Sydney and Dublin Accords for South Africa which is represented by the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA). The decision by all signatories of both Accords to recognise ECSA for a further six years was made in June 2019 at the IEA Meeting in Hong Kong.

The IEA is a global not-for-profit organisation which comprises members from 36 jurisdictions within 27 countries, across seven international agreements that govern the recognition of engineering educational qualifications and professional competence.

The further recognition of ECSA under the Sydney and Dublin Accords comes after evidence was gathered by the Review Team consisting of representatives from Taiwan, New Zealand and Canada during the accreditation visit to the Durban University of Technology`s (DUT) Indumiso and Steve Biko Campuses, the Tshwane University of Technology`s (TUT) eMalahleni and Pretoria Campuses as well as the site visit to ECSA offices in August 2018.

The decision to further recognise ECSA certifies that ECSA is committed to the development and recognition of good practice in engineering education and has satisfactorily met the outcomes required by the Sydney and Dublin Accords.

While these Accords differ in terms of their focus, they are both international agreements between bodies responsible for accrediting engineering technology and technician academic programmes. The Dublin Accord acknowledges that the educational base is a key foundation for practice as an engineering technician, in each of the countries or territories covered by the Accord and it is this education that underpins the granting of Engineering Technician titles. Currently there are nine signatories that make up the Dublin Accord and South Africa was one of the four founding signatories when the Accord was signed in May 2002.

The Sydney Accord on the other hand, is specifically focused on academic programmes dealing with engineering technology and recognises the importance of the roles engineering technologists play, as part of a wider engineering team. Currently there are eleven signatories that make up the Sydney Accord and South Africa has been a member since June 2001 when the Accord was founded.

The extended recognition for South Africa by the IEA implies that qualifications obtained in South Africa under these two accords are recognised by the other signatories to the various accords allowing the mobility of qualified graduates, as all qualifications under these accords that are accredited by the signatory are mutually recognised.

Furthermore, this decision places ECSA and South Africa on an international platform and confirms that South Africa is at par with its international counterparts through the accredited engineering education provided by institutions of higher learning.

The next review of these accords will take place in five years and it is in these next five years that ECSA will continue to ensure that the engineering programmes offered at higher institutions of learning are aligned to international standards and thereby creating a platform for engineers to exercise their skills abroad.

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