



## UIA World Congress, Durban 2014

### **DECLARATION 2050 IMPERATIVE**

Recalling the Chicago Declaration of Interdependence for a Sustainable Future (18-21 June 1993) which recognized our ecological interdependence with the whole natural environment and committing to place environmental and social sustainability at the core of our practice and professional responsibilities.

Also recognizing the importance of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals process to achieve a sustainable future; in particular, supporting a stand-alone goal to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.

Recalling the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference that will reconvene in Paris in 2015 with the goal of reaching a new agreement on phasing out CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from worldwide power and industrial sectors by 2050, and all GHG emissions from energy systems by the second half of the 21st century.

Recognising that urban areas are responsible for over 70% of global energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, mostly from buildings. Over the next two decades, an area roughly equal to 60% of the total building stock of the world is projected to be built and rebuilt in urban areas worldwide. This provides an unprecedented opportunity to reduce fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by setting the global building sector on a path to phase out CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050.

We recognize our responsibility to seize this unique opportunity to influence ethical and socially responsible development throughout the world: to plan and design sustainable, resilient, carbon-neutral and healthy built environments that protect and enhance natural resources and wildlife habitats, provide clean air and water, generate on-site renewable energy, and advance more livable buildings and communities.

By adopting the 2050 IMPERATIVE at the International Union of Architects (UIA) World Congress in Durban, the UIA and its member organizations and partners will send a strong message to the Parties of the UNFCCC, and to the world, that we are committed to a truly sustainable and equitable future.

The UIA is acutely aware that failing to act now on climate change will put future generations and those already affected by extreme weather, natural disasters, and poverty, at great risk.

Recognizing the architects' central role in planning and designing the built environment, and the need to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2050 and provide equal access to shelter, we commit to promote the following actions;

- *Plan and design cities, towns, urban developments and new buildings to be carbon neutral, meaning they use no more energy over the course of a year than they produce, or import, from renewable energy sources.*
- *Renovate and rehabilitate existing cities, towns, urban redevelopments and buildings to be carbon neutral whilst respecting cultural and heritage values.*



- *In those cases where reaching carbon neutral is not feasible or practical, plan and design cities, towns, urban developments, new buildings and renovations to be highly efficient with the capability to produce, or import, all their energy from renewable energy sources in the future.*
- *We commit to the principle of engaging in research and setting targets towards meeting the 2050 goal.*
- *Advocate and promote socially responsible architecture for the community, develop and deliver equitable access to the information and tools needed to:*
  - *plan and design sustainable, resilient, inclusive and low-carbon/zero carbon built environments.*
  - *design no-cost/low-cost on-site renewable energy and natural resources systems (e.g., passive heating and cooling, water catchment and storage, solar hot water, daylighting, and natural ventilation systems).*

Supporting Organization: Architecture 2030

Signatories:

UIA - International Union of Architects

UIA Young Architects

ARCASIA - Architects Regional Council Asia

AUA - Africa Union of Architects

ACE - Architects Council of Europe

FPAA - Federacion Panamericana de Asociaciones de Arquitectos

CAA - Commonwealth Association of Architects

UMAR - Union Mediterranee des Architectes

CIALP - Conselho Internacional dos Arquitectos de Lingua Portuguesa

DoCoMoMo - Docomomo International

ICOMOS International Council of Monuments and sites

FAU - Fondation des Architectes de l'Urgence

AHA - Active House Alliance

WGBC - World Green Building Council

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UN HABITAT  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Endorsed by UN-Habitat recognizing the critical role of architects in the implementation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda and in the definition of the New Urban Agenda at the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to be held in 2016.

