



6 April 2021

via e-mail  
Your ref: MAA/JR/21/101

Divesh Guttee, President  
Mauritius Association of Architects  
4th Floor, Discovery House, St Jean Road  
Quatre Bornes MAURITIUS

Dear President:

With profound concern, the UIA has learned of imminent plans to enact new legislation in Mauritius that would, among other things, allow foreign architects to practise in Mauritius without the need to enter into a joint venture agreement with a local architect or local firm of architects.

For decades now, professional architecture bodies from all over the world have collaborated to develop and subscribe to the tenets of the **UIA Accord on Recommended International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice**. As one of its central elements, this Accord contains a provision governing practice in a host nation—that is, “. . . *when an individual architect or corporate entity of architects either seeks a commission or has been commissioned to design a project or offer a service in a country other than his/her/its own.*”

The Accord specifies that “*Architects providing architectural services on a project in a country in which they are not registered shall collaborate with a local architect to ensure that proper and effective understanding is given to legal, environmental, social, cultural, and heritage factors.*”

In the interests of safeguarding important cultural, legal, and ethical principles, we urge the Government of Mauritius to reconsider an ill-advised course with respect to legislation governing the practice of architecture, and to adhere to the provisions of this widely respected international professional Accord.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'THOMAS VONIER', is written over a light blue diagonal line.

Thomas Vonier FAIA RIBA  
President

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS**

**UIA GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

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