UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS COMMISSION (SDGC)
COMMISSION REPORT MAY 2020

PURPOSE AND CHARGE OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The UIA Commission on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGC) was established in 2017. Through the establishment of a Commission that responds directly to the SDGs, the UIA can be influential in raising awareness, creating knowledge, facilitating communication and disseminating information across its global network of members. In doing so, the Commission aims to ensure that architects are not just responsive to the new Agenda for Sustainable Development, but prescriptive in its implementation and evolution.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRODUCTS

The Commission has delivered UIA representation and content at a number of global and local events, including COP24, COP25, WUF 9 and WUF10. In collaboration with the KADK, DAA and UIA2023 the Commission has conceptually developed, collected cases and produced “An Architecture Guide to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals” (vol 1: published November 2018, vol 2: to be published August 2020). Commission has worked closely with UIA headquarters on development of The Dhaka Declaration (signed 2019), and on a survey (questionnaire sent to all UIA members sections) to assess the need and demand for knowledge regarding architecture’s interaction with the goals. Analysis of the findings is currently taking place. Further a group is working on SDG indicators for architects through SDG Compass and Award and a group is looking into Energy Codes and Measured Building Performance for architects. Also, the task force on The Indigenous Ecosystem Corridors and Nodes project which is a joint initiative between UIA and IFLA is an active partner.

VALUE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Hopefully, the work of the Commission contributes and will continue to contribute to UIA’s efforts to champion the importance of architecture in the development of well-functioning sustainable societies, and to individual architect’s commitment to respond to each of the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT

The UIA Commission on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGC) has 2 co-chairs, 10 steering group members (2 from each region), 3 actively involved members of council as well as a large and dynamic group of members from 22 countries all over the world. Each have contributed to global activities and many have taken local action to encourage sustainable development and support capacity-building as well as contributing to UIA out-reach in their member section. Additionally, member sections and individual architects have been called upon and invited to contribute to various events, the sourcing of realized cases to the “An Architecture Guide to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals” and to the knowledge we are currently assembling through the questionnaire. We have engaged our members in to 4 physical meetings in Copenhagen, Dhaka, Baku & Cairo. Last one year we had Zoom meetings every month. More over our programs in the COPs, WUF-9, WUF-10, UTC Dhaka and International Seminar on ARCHITECTURE FOR DISPLACED have successfully pulled many architects from both member sections and non-members across our 5 regions as speakers and participants.
The Commission will launch a Portuguese translation of “An Architecture Guide to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals, vol. 2”. Further we are in dialogue with the organizers and local organizations about an outdoor public exhibition with examples from the Guide and Brazilian cases. Moreover, the results of the survey and the other projects will be presented, and the members will be available for seminars, lectures and discussions on architecture’s contribution to achieving the SDGs.