

## **PRESENTATION OF THE NEW UIA AD HOC GROUP / COMMISSION "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE"**

Dear UIA President,  
Dear UIA Bureau and Council members,

I have enclosed for your consideration the presentation of the new UIA group/ commission "International Women in Architecture" composed by the five female UIA Council members as Representatives of the five UIA regions.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to review this and I look forward to the Council's support and approval for our new initiative and for the following:

- creation of the new group/ commission - name, aims and activities - described below
- composition of the group - Director Istelianna Atanassova - Council Member - R II and Members - the Council members Natalie Mossin - Region I, Rim Safar Sakkal - Region III, Pei Ing Tan - Region IV, Jacinta Kabarungi - Region V
- organizational assistance from the UIA Secretariat - to be determined by the UIA Secretariat

Kind regards

Istelianna Atanassova  
UIA Council member from Region II



10.06.2020

### **1. General Provisions**

*Female Architects have considerable input in our profession.*

*We all recognise women's contribution to the profession around the world, as well as often debate gender imbalance within the profession, alongside topics of diversity and equality in practice. UIA created a special group which operates within the frame of the UIA Professional Practice Commission and works on the gender equity in practicing architecture. The work of our colleagues as part of the Professional Practice Commission refers mostly to the professional rights of female Architects - the benefit of this work in the PPC is for female Architects.*

*As current circumstances have provided us with another year in office at UIA, we propose to take this opportunity and form a group that will be focused on another aspect of the activity of female Architects and gender equality. This group will highlight the role of the women Architects and will celebrate their talent and leadership as well as promote their involvement within the national and international organizations. Our activities will be directed to promote and highlight the capacity of Women Architects in different fields. The benefit of this work is for the society and is the result from the voluntary female activity in international cooperation, situation of crisis, people in need, sustainability, young people etc.*

*The UIA is uniquely positioned to do this, as currently each of the five UIA Regions has a female in position of leadership on the Council. As I already informed the President and the UIA Bureau, I am glad to announce that the idea was supported also by our female Council members Natalie Mossin - Region 1, Rim Safar Sakkal - Region 3, Pei Ing Tan - Region 4 and Jacinta Kabarungi - Region 5 who confirmed their good will to join me in this endeavor and share their experiences.*

*Attached to the present document you will find the minutes from our Zoom meeting on*

26.05.2020. We had a very fruitful discussion and the actual presentation is the summary of our common idea.

As written in the minutes Istelianna Atanassova, Council member from Region II, has been approved for Director of the group - this decision is put forward for approval by the Council on 16.06.2020.

## **2. Name of the group - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE (IWA)**

**3. Type of activity and aims** - Through our outreach within our respective Regions and the regional organizations, as well as through our personal experience as female leaders, we propose that this group works to support and assist, as well as promote opportunities for female architects around the world to participate in the leadership process. This group will champion the leadership and volunteering initiatives of female architects on international level and enhance their work within the UIA with the aim to inspire the next generations and attract new female leaders to the UIA and the international work.

As we have only one year until the Congress in Rio - therefore we shall start with the best examples for international cooperation and the Women in UIA Later on, if the initiative is approved by the General Assembly in Rio, we can enrich our aims with other activities such as crisis response, people in need, sustainability, young people etc.

## **4. Tools for achieving these goals:**

- The voluntary UIA group International women in Architecture (IWA) will promote female architect's international activity via UIA's news bulletin - our first guests will be the former UIA Presidents Sara Topelson and Luise Cox.
- Findings of IWA's research activities in relation to International women in Architecture across the five UIA regions could also feature in a dedicated section on the UIA webpage.
- The group International women in Architecture (IWA) will encourage the UIA working bodies to involve more female leaders with capacity and professional achievements in their activities

This could be achieved without special financial support from the UIA.

If some budget could be allocated to the group, this could go towards enriching our activities through organizing a meeting of the female delegates in Rio 2021 and raising our guests' awareness of the group and the results of our work. We see this as a key promotional activity of the International women in Architecture. Furthermore, we would look to bestow an honorable badge on the eminent UIA Women for their achievements and leadership.

**5. Financial support** - We appreciate the difficulty with securing UIA financial support at the end of our term. That said, potential financial support would extend the activity of the group "International women in Architecture". Therefore, we would look to consider other possible sources of income and collaborations - for example UNESCO programs financing female activities. For such purposes the Director of the group shall need the support of the UIA President.

## **6. Meetings and organizational support**

For the activities of UIA's new group "International women in Architecture" we request the assistance of the UIA secretariat in relation to organizational work.

The meetings of the UIA IWA group may occur online or in concurrence with other International events, with attendance by the 5 female UIA Council members. We foresee no extraordinary meetings until the UIA Congress in Rio.