



International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA)

# THE GLOBAL ACCORD

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*adaptation for a changing world*



## THE CHALLENGE

As concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere continue to increase, the atmosphere and the oceans are warming, glaciers are melting, and sea level around the world is rising. It is certain that the world's climate is changing and that weather patterns have become more erratic and extreme.

Decisions made today in the planning and design of human communities, the development of resources, and the conservation and protection of ecosystems will have ongoing effects on the capacity of peoples and environments to withstand environmental changes, and on the ability of future generations to ensure their security and prosperity. Insightful and creative attention to existing and anticipated impacts of climate change will ensure that we build innovatively, efficiently and perhaps, most importantly, with a deep commitment to the welfare of generations to come.

## THE GLOBAL ACCORD

Landscape architects, and their affiliated professions, understand that to ensure a prosperous future and a sustainable environment, we must create societies characterized by an enhanced capacity for resilience, a willingness to transform to a better state, and a commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability of environments, cultures and well-being for all.

By encouraging our memberships to focus on these three key principles, IFLA hopes to build competence and to promote innovation in planning and design decisions that embrace the challenges and opportunities of the changing world. In working across environmental and cultural systems, landscape architects are uniquely positioned to engage professions, industries and governments in new alliances better equipped to address complex social and ecological problems and to fully express the opportunities inherent in principles of equity, sustainability, resiliency and democracy.

To this end, IFLA has initiated the Global Accord, an agreement on practice supported by individuals and organizations, governments and industries. The Accord establishes three guiding principles for decision-making, and encourages collaboration across disciplines and geographic and national boundaries.





## RESILIENT

RESILIENT societies and ecosystems have the capacity to absorb stresses of small scale or temporary changes, to rapidly recover from the impacts of stress, and to persist without being detrimentally affected in the long term by changing environmental conditions.

As the climate changes, weather will become more severe, having catastrophic effects on communities and ecosystems. The capacity to withstand these stresses will determine if communities persist or if migration is required.

Resilience can be a function of individual and collective diversity and strength. Resilient individuals and systems possess the potential for the creativity and innovation needed to both meet hardships and to seize opportunities in a changing climate.

## ● TRANSFORMATIVE

TRANSFORMATIVE societies embrace change and are characterized by a philosophical, practical and strategic shift in the way people think, feel, and act.

Transformative change continually moves towards a better state of being. Throughout our history, humankind has reacted to social and environmental upheaval by altering behaviour, adapting to new circumstances and/or migrating to better conditions.

In these next few decades, society must work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to transform communities, and to conserve and enhance the natural environment. Given that the world of today will not be the world of tomorrow, positive action is needed to ensure that cultures, economies and ecosystems continue to thrive.

## ● SUSTAINABLE

SUSTAINABLE societies ensure that the decisions they make today do not compromise the capacity for future generations to meet their needs.

Healthy and sustainable environments increasingly rely on the protection, conservation and wise use of resources by humans, to protect systems, functions and species and to ensure their continued viability, especially under increasingly trying conditions.

Sustainability goals promote a future in where environmental, social and economic considerations are in balance. In the pursuit of an improved quality of life, a sustainable and prosperous society relies on a healthy environment to provide food and resources, safe drinking water, clean air and shelter for all its citizens.

# SIGNATORIES TO THE ACCORD

IFLA AMERICAS REGION

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS (CSLA)



**IFLA**

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

IFLA is the international voice of landscape architects representing 76 professional associations from the geographic regions of Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Middle East. The International Federation promotes the landscape architecture profession within a collaborative partnership of the allied built-environment professions, demanding the highest standards of education, training, research and professional practice, and providing leadership and stewardship in all matters. As a leading international body, IFLA is dedicated to the promotion of a globally sustainable and