Declaration of Interdependence for a Sustainable Future

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In recognition that:

- A sustainable society restores, preserves, and enhances nature and culture for the benefit of all life, present and future; a diverse and healthy environment is intrinsically valuable and essential to a healthy society; today's society is seriously degrading the environment and is not sustainable;

- We are ecologically interdependent with the whole natural environment; we are socially, culturally, and economically interdependent with all of humanity; sustainability, in the context of this interdependence, requires partnership, equity, and balance among all parties;

- Buildings and the built environment play a major role in the human impact on the natural environment and on the quality of life; sustainable design integrates consideration of resource and energy efficiency, healthy buildings and materials, ecologically and socially sensitive land-use, and an aesthetic sensitivity that inspires, affirms, and ennobles; sustainable design can significantly reduce adverse human impacts on the natural environment while simultaneously improving quality of life and economic well being;

We commit ourselves,

as members of the world's architectural and building-design professions, individually and through our professional organisations, to:

✓ Place environmental and social sustainability at the core of our practices and professional responsibilities

✓ Develop and continually improve practices, procedures, products, curricula, services, and standards that will enable the implementation of sustainable design

✓ Educate our fellow professionals, the building industry, clients, students, and the general public about the critical importance and substantial opportunities of sustainable design

✓ Establish policies, regulations, and practices in government and business that ensure sustainable design becomes normal practice

✓ Bring all existing and future elements of the built environment - in their design, production, use, and eventual reuse - up to sustainable design standards.

Olufemi Majekodunmi
President, International Union of Architects

Susan A. Maxman
President, American Institute of Architects
The success of human development now threatens the health of the environment on which we depend. The structures and performance patterns that have developed in our buildings, our built environment equipment, our urban systems and the landscape are the major causes of our present predicament and inevitably the principal arena of opportunity for its resolution. Accordingly, the Architects have developed the following statement of intent.

Meeting in Chicago from 18-21 June 1993 to consider the Theme "Architecture at the Crossroads: Designing a Sustainable Future", and conscious of the outcomes of the Earth Summit, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, Architects from all continents recognized the emergence of global environmental problems, and committed themselves to charting a new course for the Design Professions for the 21st Century.

1. They commit themselves to participating with other professionals and with the local and global community in the development of an ecologically sustainable future.

2. Recognizing the decisive role of local communities in shaping their own futures they commit themselves to engaging in ongoing community education and participatory design and construction processes in the establishment of ecologically sustainable settlements.

3. Also recognizing that the designed and constructed environment is the dominant component of our accumulated capital wealth and shapes our future environmental impact they commit their design and professional skills to the redevelopment and extension of this capital resource in support of sustainable systems of human settlement through design and the use of appropriate technologies.

4. They adopt a world view which embraces individual and collective interdependence with the local and global environment as the basis of a New Design Paradigm of Environmental Interdependence.

5. They accept that the development and utilisation of a new Design Paradigm of Environmental Interdependence must encompass improvement of economic, social, cultural and environmental conditions.

6. They acknowledge that Architects must add to their traditional concerns for excellence and efficiency a commitment to developing and applying innovative designs, technologies and methods to achieve a sustainable future.

7. They pledge themselves to establishing attitudes and values, and business and professional ethics and practices, to achieve a sustainable future.

8. Aware of the long lead times and great social, economic and technological difficulties associated with the major reorientation of our buildings, urban systems and landscapes that is now seen to be necessary, they undertake to bring the implications of this situation to the attention of the world community and to devise and make widely available appropriate design and development strategies.

9. Recognizing that motorized movement of people and goods degrades the environment locally and globally they undertake to explore every opportunity, both through the alteration and reconstruction of existing buildings and built environment systems and through new construction, to enhance local self reliance supported by the local complementarity of facilities whilst respecting cultural and environmental requirements.

10. Knowing that urban and near-urban land often has available to it a good supply of water and nutrients they undertake to optimize the biological productivity of urban areas as for wood and wood products, fuel, food, fodder, fibres, together with the production of urban landscapes that support the comfort, health and cultural life of the community.
Attachment

Proposed Principles and Practices:
Architects involved in the design, planning and building of human settlements and their supportive systems and hinterlands fully support the further development of a global culture of interdependence with the environment and individually and collectively through their professional associations they will work to promote its realisation by adopting the following Principles and Practices.

Principles

• **Principle 1**
  Individually and collectively the members of the Architecture Profession will advise their clients and assist with the education of the broader community on the environmental implications of development trends, strategies and policies.

• **Principle 2**
  The Architecture Profession will engage with local communities in formulating appropriate strategies and design guidelines for sustainable human settlement which are economically and environmentally appropriate to their particular culture and place.

• **Principle 3**
  Architects will, through their work seek to give full expression to a culture of interdependence with the environment.

• **Principle 4**
  Architects will advance ecologically sustainable development by contributing to and supporting appropriate designs, products, services and technologies.

• **Principle 5**
  Architects should promote the development of an ecologically sustainable future for the Planet and ensure that development strategies, design concepts and innovations which are consistent with, or improve the prospect of, ecological sustainability are made available globally, including to disadvantaged groups and nations, with appropriate mechanism to protect intellectual property.

• **Principle 6**
  In developing ecologically sustainable building and settlement practices all sources of relevant knowledge and methods, including those of indigenous people, should be considered.

• **Principle 7**
  Architects should promote healthy and environmentally responsible living and behavioural patterns and develop designs and technologies in support of such lifestyles.

• **Principle 8**
  Architects will promote development strategies and projects which anticipate the needs, and recognise the rights of present and future generations.

• **Principle 9**
  Architects will, through their practices, implement the International Conventions and Agreements for protection of the rights and well being of the Earth and its peoples, the integrity and diversity of the Cultural Heritage, Monuments and Sites, and the biodiversity, integrity and sustainability of the global ecosystem.

• **Principle 10**
  The initial education and Continuing Professional Development of Architects should recognise the need for a wide range of knowledge and insights from the Arts, Culture and Humanities, the Natural and Social Sciences, and the Technologies as a basis for understanding the behaviour and management of ecological systems, and for creating ecologically sustainable forms of production, development and settlement.
Practices

Design, Professional Practice and Work Organisation Guidelines for an Ecologically Sustainable Future

Practices 1
Architects should ensure that all Design outcomes and work practices should:

1.1 avoid any significant additional and irreversible damage to the environment on the construction site or elsewhere.
1.2 use caution in decision making; in a context of limited information there should be an avoidance of decisions and actions which may result in irreversible damage to environmental assets of air, water, soil, flora and fauna and the ecosystems of which these form part.
1.3 prevent the transfer of environmental damage or contamination across worksite or other boundaries.
1.4 permit future generations to enjoy an environment with at least the same qualities and quantities of environmental assets as present generations.
1.5 preclude the irreversible reduction of biological or cultural diversity.
1.6 create designs, buildings, structures, products, services and technologies, which operate and function in ways which are environmentally beneficial or neutral in their effects.
1.7 use preventative approaches, using clean and ecologically sustainable materials and processes, in preference to curative, or ameliorative measures.
1.8 rehabilitate and restore degraded environments as part of the Design and Planning process.

Practices 2
The work of the Architecture Profession should be directed to create buildings, structures, products and technologies throughout the built environment and the landscape which:

2.1 use materials which are non-toxic or of very low toxicity, are reusable, which can be eventually recycled through non-hazardous processes, and which do not decrease biodiversity by threatening species of flora and fauna with extinction.
2.2 use materials and combinations of materials that can safely be returned to the biosphere without threat to humans or other life.
2.3 are designed for a long life, are reusable for other purposes, and are not rendered prematurely obsolete through changes in fashion.
2.4 are designed so that they may be assembled and disassembled to permit the replacement of broken, damaged or non functioning components, and be modernised and updated through rehabilitation or retrofitting with improved components and systems.
2.5 enable their use for other purposes when their original use is ended.
2.6 are efficient in their use of energy, are capable of further improvement in their energy efficiency, which operate, where applicable, within the boundaries set by solar income, and which utilise sustainable and renewable energy sources.
2.7 minimise the use of energy and waste in their fabrication and construction.
2.8 include innate "smartness" or "intelligence", where this is applicable, to enable self management and regulation of component systems.

2.9 promote the health and well being of the users and of the biosphere.

2.10 promote, respect and nurture cultural values and cultural heritage.

2.11 exemplify methods of practice that facilitate and encourage user participation in the design, construction and future management processes of buildings, the built environment, built environment systems, and the landscape.

2.12 recycle of provide for the recycling of all material flows, including glass, metals, plastics, paper, organic materials, nutrients, and water.

2.13 form part of, or contribute to the development of, locally self reliant local communities based on local complementarity of life supporting facilities.

2.14 promote pedestrian access to a wide range of life supporting facilities, encourages the non-motorised movement of people and goods and discourages motorised transport.

2.15 encourages the use of very efficient methods of motorised transport of people and goods where such movement is necessary.

 Practices 3

A Planetary culture of Interdependence requires Architects to operate professional practices which ensure:

3.1 that they run their professional practices and their offices in ways that are compatible with global sustainability.

3.2 that they conduct relationships with suppliers, customers, clients, employees and the community with the same professional standards and ethics that they apply to their own practices.

3.3 that Environmental auditing, monitoring and forecasting are utilised to ensure that the well being of both present and future generations, and other species are adequately protected and nurtured.

3.4 that work and decision making are equally informed and guided by an understanding of socio-economic and ecological realities.

3.5 that similar criteria of acceptable environmental impact are applied in all countries and locations, irrespective of their socio-economic status.

3.6 that the ecological integrity of the planetary commons of oceans and atmosphere are respected and protected, and not used for the disposal of wastes which threaten environmental integrity at the local, regional or global level.

3.7 that products, services and technologies which degrade the environment, decrease biodiversity, and threaten the health and lives of present and future generations are not used.

 Practices 4

Architects should promote the development of new designs and innovations, and where appropriate reintroduce old but neglected practices which:

4.1 restore and rehabilitate degraded ecosystems, and their component soil, water, air, flora and fauna.
4.2 protect and maintain the health and well being of people by improving the quality of the environment in which they live.

4.3 protect, maintain and conserve the integrity and diversity of biological systems, and of cultural and heritage structures and artefacts.

4.4 ensure that energy is conserved wherever possible.

4.5 ensure that energy use in buildings, appliances and built environment systems is efficient.

4.6 base the choice of primary energy wherever possible on sustainable and renewable resources.

4.7 where it is necessary to use non-renewable energy resource, use that resource that is least damaging to the environment.

4.8 aim to design buildings and their support systems that can operate on the solar and solar derived energy that is available.

4.9 minimise the use of energy and waste in the fabrication and construction of products, buildings, structures and technologies.

4.10 enable products, buildings, structures, and technologies to be more easily assembled and disassembled so that damaged, non functioning and broken parts can be easily replaced.

4.11 improve the effective life of buildings, structures, products and technologies, by the use of long lasting non-toxic or very low toxicity materials, and by the development of cost effective regimes for their long term maintenance.

4.12 permit the continuous updating and modernisation of building structures, products and technologies through design which enables their easy rehabilitation, including by the retrofitting with more advanced components and systems.

4.13 provide the equipment and other means to reduce the production of wastes, to reuse wastes for new productive purposes, and to effectively recycle waste materials.

4.14 promote the use of non-toxic or very low toxicity reusable materials and building components in buildings, structures, products and technologies.

4.15 enable buildings, structures, products and technologies to be used for other purposes when their initial usefulness is ended.

4.16 develop and use materials which can be recycled and eventually returned safely to the environment.

4.17 improve the forecasting, monitoring, assessment and auditing of environmental changes, and the efficiency of management of environmental resources.

21st June 1993

Fonte:

<http://www.uia-architectes.org/texte/england/2aaf1.html>