

Over the last few decades, tremendous progress has been made in improving the health, education, and well-being of people around the world. However, this development has been accompanied by environmental damage, climate change, and resource depletion as well as social and cultural challenges. In 2015, the nations of the world came together and laid out the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030.

Architecture interacts with each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and architects can help the goals to be achieved. As architects, we have the responsibility to contribute to the built environment and make choices that change the world for the better—through better buildings, settlements, landscape architecture and urban planning.

We call on architects worldwide to take action in their own practice and as civic leaders to shape their work and their words to help achieve these goals:

- 1. End poverty:** Architects can seek to build in ways that help to eradicate poverty, by designing low-cost housing and institutions that are safe, healthy, and resilient.
- 2. End hunger:** Architects can through planning, landscape and building design protect ecosystems and preserve areas for food production.
- 3. Good health and well-being:** Architects can design and plan so that exposure to communicable diseases and pollution is reduced, daylight, good acoustics and air quality is provided, and healthy levels of activity promoted.
- 4. Quality education:** Architects can design educational facilities that are affordable and inclusive.
- 5. Gender equality:** Architects can help to shape buildings, settlements and urban areas to include all persons, regardless of gender and can work to promote gender equality in the design and construction industry.
- 6. Clean water and sanitation:** Architects can design and plan to avoid water waste or excessive runoff, and to reduce the encroachment of saltwater on freshwater aquifers and bodies.
- 7. Affordable and clean energy:** Architects can design and plan buildings and settlements to reduce energy use, produce renewable energy where feasible, adapted to geographic, climatic and cultural conditions.
- 8. Decent work and economic growth:** Architects can specify building materials produced in safe and clean environments, and work to ensure secure conditions on building sites and in demolition processes.
- 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure:** Architects can seek to use services, products and systems that pollute less, use less energy, produce less waste, and provide solutions that are safe, healthy and less costly.
- 10. Reduced inequalities:** Architects can promote design and planning approaches that are socially responsible, inclusive and accommodate the needs of all people
- 11. Sustainable cities and communities:** Architects can promote measures that help to make cities more inclusive, safer and more resilient, and adaptive to anticipated climate change, with special attention to vulnerable segments of society.
- 12. Responsible consumption and production:** Architects can seek to design for durability and for sustainable life cycles in building components and materials, favoring recycled materials wherever possible.
- 13. Climate change:** Architects can take action to reduce or eliminate the climate changing emissions associated with the construction and operation of the buildings they design, and make their designs adaptable to anticipated changes in climate.
- 14. Life below water:** Architects can exercise special care for buildings and settlements in coastal regions and in fragile aquatic ecosystems, taking all possible steps to reduce harmful effects of waste and pollution on water.
- 15. Life on land:** Architects can help promote urban development that minimizes sprawl and so reduces threats to biodiverse habitats; they can design buildings and settlements that integrate landscapes, provides habitats and connects with larger ecosystems.
- 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions:** Architects can advocate for policies on their projects that reduce opportunities for corruption, bribery, or unjust labor practices.
- 17. Partnerships for the goals:** Architects can join with those who work to advance the goals. Working together we can achieve a prosperous and sustainable future.

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