



IFLA EUROPE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

CLIMATE CHALLENGES

Since the second half of the 20th century variations in climate have accentuated. Nowadays the change in temperature and rainfall, the raising of the sea level, and the multiplication of incidents such as floods, droughts and fires, are impacting on biodiversity and people's way of life worldwide. In this time of continuing change and uncertainty, it is imperative that climate challenges are part of the design, planning and management of landscapes, which are a fundamental resource for the welfare of future generations. The landscape profession has the understanding and knowledge of environmental, social and economic needs to deliver landscape led solutions that can assist resolving these complex problems.

The undersigned, as representatives of the 34 National Associations of the European Region of the International Federation of Landscape Architects, having considered the Resolution on *Climate Challenges* at our General Assembly in London, United Kingdom 2018, wish to contribute the understanding, awareness and resolution of these concerns.

We therefore make the following statement:

WE BELIEVE

*Landscape Architects
have the training, experience and expertise to play a key role in facing these global challenges*

*Landscape Architects
work closely with nature and innovative technologies to minimise climate change and its impact on landscape*

Recognising that climate change is now perceptible throughout Europe and that it will have repercussions on the environment at a quicker pace than previous climatic variations. It will transform biogeographical areas and with it biodiversity, thus accelerating desertification and provoking transformations in the ways we live and manage landscape.

Understanding that natural resources on which societies rely for their survival are also being continually eroded inducing the loss of biodiversity. The result of excessive exploitation further increases the destruction and fragmentation of natural habitats. This dual impact poses a major threat to ecosystems.

Conscious that landscape has become subject to an accumulative degradation of environmental values. Collateral effects such as urban heating, the abandonment of rural areas and flight to cities will impact on the life quality of human communities. Climate change will influence the destiny of the world in the 21st century, and is one of the biggest challenges of present and future generations. Through consistently measuring, quantifying and valuing outcomes and efforts landscape architecture can make a great contribution to the benefit of people, places & nature.

Aware that climate change has transcended scientific circles and is easily observed by all. It now is present in the public realm and a focus of debate throughout Europe. The scale of climate change is now evident, and the fragility of landscape has become obvious.

WE URGE

the Council of Europe, the European Union and all IFLA Europe Member States to promote a comprehensive landscape strategy in their decision making; developing a holistic vision regarding cultural, social, political, environmental, and economic balance beyond political frontiers, thus:

Evaluating the scale of climatic change and its potential impacts in order to develop methods to maintain the quality of life of populations affected by climatic disruptions, and to prevent future crises,

Integrating environmental parameters in decision making, giving them greater importance,

Promoting legislation to favour environmental and landscape protection as well as development, including more flexible financial tools and managerial systems,

Mobilising change in society, which will have to maintain and manage landscape with radically different ethical and material concepts,

Investigating new ways of living, drawing from both local, often nature based traditions, and innovative technologies for energy efficient landscapes and ecological integrity,

Ensuring the inclusion of detailed environmental considerations in the design and planning of landscapes, requiring professionals in the private and public sector to integrate climate challenges into their projects,

Developing strategies for adaptation and mitigation measures to minimize negative effects, by planning and designing the energy transition and organize land use to enhance carbon dioxide sequestration,

Increasing the efforts of government to limit climate change to become a priority in the political agenda.

Following other international and European texts on the matter such as:

- *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC, 1992).
- *Paris Agreement on Climate Change* (Paris, 2015).
- *The Århus Convention* (UN Economic Commission for Europe, 1998).
- *European Climate Change Programme* (EU ECCP, 2000).
- *European Union framework for climate and energy 2020 – 2030* (EU 2014).
- *Bern Convention, Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats* (CoE 1979).
- *The European Landscape Convention* (CoE, Florence, 2000).

IFLA EUROPE General Assembly, London, United Kingdom, September 2018.

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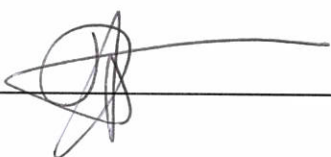
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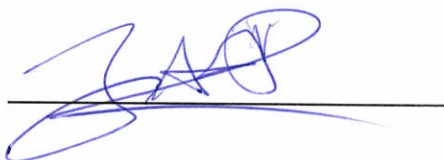
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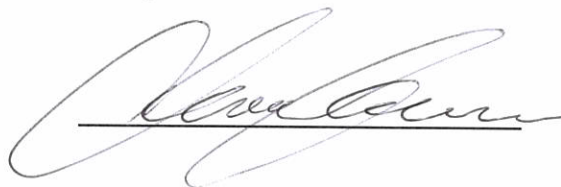
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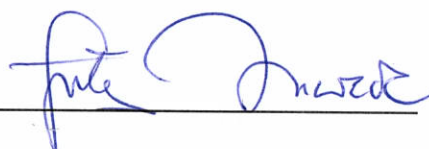
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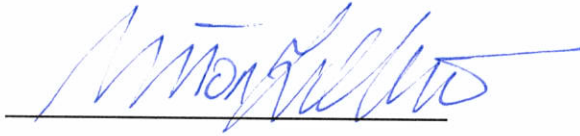
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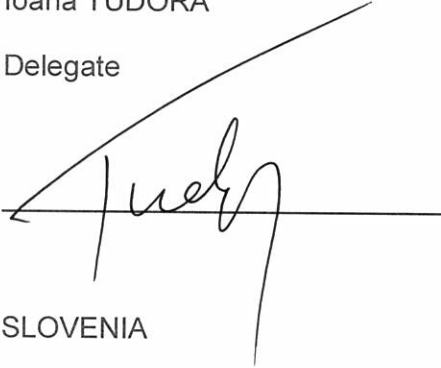
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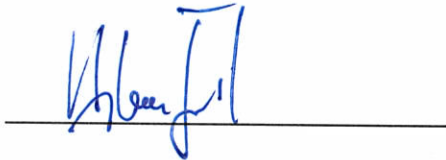
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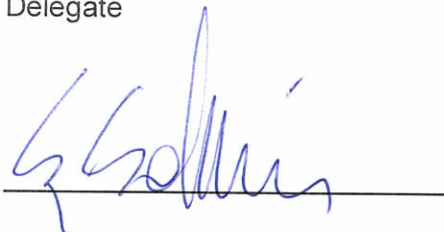
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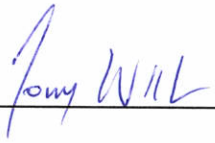
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