

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)
International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: January 2019 to January 2021

Part I. Statement of Continued Support, January 2021

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that IFLA reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours.

We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,
James Hayter, President

2 Part II. Description of Actions

About IFLA

A truly global federation, IFLA currently represents 74 national associations from Africa, the Americas, Europe, Asia Pacific and the Middle East. Our mission as landscape architects is to create globally sustainable and balanced living environments for the benefit of humanity worldwide.

We believe Landscape Architecture is the most significant, relevant and dynamic of all of the design professions. In pulling together many threads from different environments and cultures, we see at work many talented and dedicated professionals wanting to improve the quality of the built environment and manage better the natural landscapes and resources we work with on a day-to-day basis. IFLA is one of the conduits which allows this to happen.

IFLA officially represents the world body of landscape architects through its member

associations and regions. One of our main values is in helping to bring together, globally, the many individual and group actions and initiatives that often share commonalities in purpose. Whilst we are rightly concerned with what happens locally, we can also learn and contribute towards the global efforts in managing climate change, respecting indigenous cultures, establishing common education and professional practice standards, incorporating food security and health and well-being as core values, and recognising how community participation can enrich and empower our communities.

Plan IFLA

IFLA is now undergoing a transformation to improve its governance and the services it provides to its members so that it can focus on key areas of activity with the long term sustainability of the organisation first and foremost.

Our business plan, Plan IFLA looks to deliver Global Opportunities for the Landscape Architectural Profession. It strives to create a new, forward thinking and very effective organisation which will be a go-to for associations and their landscape architect membership. Our strategic aim is to provide excellent services to both our member associations and the family of landscape architects worldwide.

Primarily, we will do this by raising the profile of the profession and acting as a conduit for the sharing of the many professional initiatives and services currently being provided by associations and their industry partners.

Working towards the global compact

Landscape architecture combines environment and design, art and science. It is about everything outside the front door, both urban and rural, at the interface between people and natural systems.

The range of ways in which landscape architects work is staggering. From master-planning Olympic sites to planning and managing landscapes like national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty to designing the public squares and parks that we all use, landscape architecture nurtures communities and makes their environment human and liveable. Landscape architecture is not just the profession of the future - but the profession for a better future and so principles of sustainability are enshrined in the daily practice of our members. Landscape architects are broad thinkers who thrive on the big picture. They are playing an increasingly important role in addressing the great issues of our day: climate change, sustainable communities, water, housing and the prevention of hunger.

During the past 2 years IFLA and our members participated in many events which reflect the 10 principles of commitment to the UN Global Compact. While IFLA adheres to all 10 of the principles, particular attention has been paid to promulgating Principle 8. 3

Key Actions relating to one or more of the UN Global Compact suggested activities:
Disseminate the Global Compact principles

- Incorporated promotion of the UN Global Compact Principles into the IFLA Communication schedule, part of IFLA's regular Workplan. Promoted conferences, seminars, symposia and forums which align with the 10 principles. Incorporate the GC principles into internal operations and communicate progress following the COE requirements
- Developed an Agreement for IFLA Corporate Members requiring ethical practices in line with the UN Global Compact Principles. Failure to adhere to these practices would result in termination of any cooperation between IFLA and the offending organisation.
- Developed a Code of Conduct for individuals engaged by IFLA adhering to the UN Global Compact principles.
- Developed Service Provider guidelines for the purpose of ensuring transparency and equitable opportunity in engaging service providers for IFLA activities.
- Enshrined the ethos of Principles 7-9 regarding the Environment into the IFLA 'Vision'.
- Incorporated principles on Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption into National and Regional Charters, Articles of Association and Membership Agreements.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes Relevant qualitative and/or quantitative indicators which measure the outcome of the activities described in Part II above.

Human Rights

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

IFLA as an institution is committed to supporting the International Declaration on Human Rights. Through the professional Code of Conduct and Membership Agreements, our members are required to respect the relevant rights and interests of others, respect the beliefs and opinions of other people, recognise social diversity and treat everyone fairly. These have been agreed to by members who joined IFLA prior to and during the reporting period. In the last 6 months we have undertaken a review of IFLA's existing Code of Ethics, and mapped and collated knowledge of similar documents from IFLA member associations. Labour

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation. IFLA works within the French and European Union legal frameworks which recognises freedom of association, and outlaws forced and child labour. IFLA is committed to diversity in its recruitment and procurement procedures; internal policy requires a transparent process for both. To ensure equal opportunity for service providers, a public tender is released and bids assessed with results disclosed to the applicants and internally recorded.

IFLA drives the development of National and Regional Charters pertaining to the practice of the profession of Landscape Architecture and also provides direct support and advice to develop regulations and statutes of Member Associations.

IFLA Articles of Association furthermore require that Member Associations ensure their members abide by Labour, Human Rights and Anti-Corruption principles. These include but are not limited to promoting ethical labour practices by, for example, prohibiting and challenging the use of materials or raw resources sourced utilising child or forced labour.

Environment

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

IFLA provides international thought leadership in tackling environmental challenges realised by globalisation, urbanisation, industrialisation, depletion of natural resources and a host of other issues relating to land use.

The IFLA Vision promotes “the creation of a globally sustainable and balanced living environment from a landscape architectural perspective.” Examples of measures which progress the GC principles relating to Environment include:

- IFLA has repositioned its organisation as a federation so that its working groups align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Ratified an IFLA Climate Change Working Group at the 2016 IFLA World Council. As part of its mandate the Working Group will disseminate expertise from the profession that contributes to developing balanced living environments for all:
- Approved Action Plans for two Working Groups contributing to



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environmental responsibility:

- Landscape Architects Without Borders:
- Promoted 100+ conferences, seminars, symposia and forums.
- Launched the International Landscape Convention, an initiative with the purpose of Stimulating
- integrated policy making, unlocking greater value for people and the economy for now and in the future, helping to raise aspirations, reinforce democracy, encourage local culture and by recognizing the true value of the landscape help ensure the creation, protection and long-term management of memorable, equitable and sustainable landscapes to improve the quality of life for all.
- Launched several National and Regional Landscape Charters which promote greater environmental responsibility.
- Applied for membership of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lodged.
- Displayed only environmentally friendly technology exhibitors at the IFLA World Congress.

Anti-Corruption

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

IFLA recognises that bribery and corruption have a severely detrimental effect on economies and individuals, promoting illegal activities and weakening labour rights. The professional Code of Conduct of our Members requires them to act fairly and honestly with potential clients and competitors in all of their professional dealings. They must not allow themselves to be improperly influenced either by their own, or others', self-interest.