

## WORLD PLANNERS' KATOWICE DECLARATION 2022: Transforming our Cities for a Better Future

**THIS DECLARATION SETS OUT THE SUSTAINED COMMITMENT OF THE GLOBAL PLANNING PROFESSION AND ACADEMIA TO IMPLEMENT THE AGENDA SET OUT AT THE WUF 2022 IN KATOWICE, BUILDING ON THE EARLIER 2020 ABU DHABI AND 2006 VANCOUVER DECLARATIONS.**

**We, as representatives of the planning profession around the world, recognising cities and regions as hubs** for innovative solutions in response to past and current challenges in societal development at different levels, as well as many problems with urban development, dedicate ourselves to working together, and with others, to tackle the challenges of rapid urbanisation, the dire consequences of poverty and inequality, and the hazards posed to both humans and the environment by biodiversity loss, climate change, conflicts and natural disasters.

The future of cities is central to tackling these challenges. Not only are they where these problems are most acute but also they offer the greatest opportunities for delivering change, particularly in terms of their social, institutional and technological potential.

We hold that urbanisation must become much more sustainable if the global community is to realise the aspirations in the United Nations New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Good urban planning is key to promoting the advantages of prosperity, social mobility and efficient resource use that urban life offers, while minimising the negative consequences of poorly managed growth, and recognising the environmental, demographic and social impact of urbanisation on the territories beyond cities.

We have a responsibility, along with others, to future generations for restoration and custodianship of this planet and its habitats, and to those who are disadvantaged, especially the poor and those who lack adequate shelter.

We stand for planning as an inclusive process. Planning is strategic and multiscale, consultative, integrative, participatory, and creative, embracing diversity in all its forms and rooted in concerns for equality, and can mitigate adverse aspects of urbanisation. We commit to working collaboratively to enable and empower communities to engage in planning for a better future through transforming our cities and regions.

We advocate that sustainable planning must underpin any approach to managing



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rural, urban and regional development. It is practised in the private sector, the public sector, by voluntary bodies and community organisations.

We will build the capacity for creating safe, healthy and more sustainable settlements by mobilising, sharing and developing the knowledge and skills of planners, and help to

disseminate best practices in order to lead by example, highlighting the contributions of knowledge and research and practising a strategic approach to face future challenges.

We advocate that sustainable planning and its values and ethics are fundamental to good governance and offer a means to deliver more equal access

to the benefits that cities and regions have to offer.

We assert that there can be no sustainable development without sustainable urbanisation and no sustainable urbanisation without effective planning. Political support, financial and human resource investment, and authentic community empowerment and engagement are required for effective planning.

We will promote this declaration to governments, international development organisations, other professions, and to civil society in a spirit of global partnership and collaboration.

***We dedicate ourselves to action now, and in the years ahead, in support of this Declaration.***

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