

Panama City Declaration URBIO and IFLA 2016

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About the Declaration

- Submitted during the joint conference of the Urban Biodiversity and Design Network (URBIO) and the International Federation of Landscape Architects of the Americas Region (IFLA-AR) following a joint conference held in Panama City, Panama from 25 – 27th October, 2016
- The Conference, ‘From Cities to Landscape: Design for Health and Biodiversity’, sought to grow our collective understanding of the critical role of biodiversity, the Landscape Approach, and associated ecosystem health and services underpinning the human health in our cities.

Preamble

- The conference activated essential interdisciplinary collaboration and advanced research and practices to better plan, design and manage our urban landscapes for improved liveability and health.
- This meeting was intended to foster conversation around design and science for better cities that are sustainable, resilient, liveable, and just.
- We salute and commend the vision and engagement shared by Mayor José I. Blandón and Deputy Mayor Raisa Banfield, on their contemporary vision for an integrated city with its landscape, biodiversity and human health.

We recognise and assert that urban landscape design for resilient and sustainable cities must focus on urban health together with biodiversity.

- Given that
- Existing and growing scientific evidence points to the critical role of urban biodiversity in underpinning health.
- Human health is fundamentally dependent on ecosystem health and as such underpins the well-being of society.
- Urban landscape design must reflect this essential relationship.
- Therefore, biodiversity and ecosystem health must be central considerations in urban planning and landscape design in order to meet Aichi targets.

This means

- We will be guided by the Habitat III *New Urban Agenda* and the Landscape Architecture Foundation's *New Landscape Declaration* towards achieving the CBD "Plan of Action" and achieving the Aichi targets.
- We will continue to collaborate actively with ICLEI to stimulate research that meets the needs of local authorities.
- We pledge to contribute to the transformation of public policy, to innovation in design strategies, to activation of associated research agendas, and
- to share knowledge and experience relevant to Local Bio-Diversity Strategy and Action Plans (LBSAPs).

As a scientific and Design community we pledge

- To advocate for policies that shift the focus of responsibility from ecosystems, and rather to the management of human activities.
- To actively support the generation, co-creation and mobilisation of transdisciplinary knowledge--from science to policy to design--that is urgently needed to address complex urban issues.
- In this we will work specifically, proactively and collaboratively to generate evidence-based knowledge to inform and transform policy development to effectively meet the SDGs.
- we will seek out, support, and collaborate with local, national and international networks that share our vision and mission.
- to establish practical methods to incorporate and empower diverse peoples' engagement and collaboration in designing with/in urban nature.

Shared Joint vision

- the declaration of concern as presented in the Landscape Architecture Foundation's *New Landscape Declaration* where it states, *'The urgent challenge before us is to redesign our communities in the context of their bioregional landscapes enabling them to adapt to climate change and mitigate its root causes. As scientists, designers and planners versed in both environmental and cultural systems, we are uniquely positioned to bring related professions together into new alliances to address complex social and ecological problems. We bring different and often competing interests together so as to give artistic physical form and integrated function to the ideals of equity, sustainability, resiliency and democracy.'*

Signed by

- Haripriya Gundimeda (President, International Urban Biodiversity Network)
- Raquel Penalosa (President, International Federation of Landscape Architects – Americas Region)
- All the Participants of the conference

Thank you

to ICLEI, CONABIO, SCBD ANAAE and all the **participants**