

## Why this declaration

A multifaceted approach for addressing the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability requires the active engagement of practitioners to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This approach is particularly necessary in cities, which are home to over half the world's population - a trend that is projected to reach 70 per cent by 2050 as urbanization continues to grow.

## What is the declaration all about?

The San Marino Declaration provides a first-of-its kind indivisible, action-oriented Principles for bolstering the roles of city mayors, architects, engineers, urban planners, designers, surveyors, building and city managers, developers and infrastructure operators in ensuring sustainable, safe, healthy, socially inclusive, climate-neutral and encouraging circularity in homes, urban infrastructure and cities. The Principles are ethical equivalent and constitute a manifesto for a global future, where no one is left behind.

## Adopted by UNECE member States

UNECE member States adopted the San Marino Declaration during the eighty-third session of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM), which took place in San Marino over the period 3-6 October 2022. In so doing, they committed to ensuring the effective engagement of practitioners in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They also agreed that the Principles contained in the Declaration be applied to the design of all buildings and urban development initiatives and projects.

## Signed by Leading architects

The Principles contained in the San Marino Declaration were symbolically signed during CUDHLM eighty-third session by leading architects Lord Norman Foster, President of the Norman Foster Foundation, and Stefano Boeri, Founder of Stefano Boeri Architetti, together with the Order of Architects of San Marino, as well as of Rimini and Pesaro in Italy, have signalled their readiness to translate them into action.

Lord Norman Foster stated "In this time of crisis, we can find great hope in the bold action being taken to make cities worldwide climate-neutral, safer, more inclusive and resilient. Yet, with the magnitude and urgency of the challenges before us, urbanists, architects, engineers and designers - along with other key shapers of our cities such as civic leaders, managers and developers - have a unique duty to drive forward transformational changes at the scale required. I call on all to harness their creativity and expertise with a commitment to put the Principles of the San Marino Declaration into action."

Stefano Boeri stated "Architects and urban planners, at this moment in the History of the human species on the Planet, have a fundamental responsibility: that of minimizing carbon dioxide emissions and energy consumption, maximizing renewable energy capturing devices, integrating increasing shares of biological and green surfaces into buildings, and adapting to a sustainable, electrified mobility model based on the public transport system."

<https://unece.org/housing>

# San Marino Declaration

**on Principles for Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Design and Architecture in Support of Sustainable, Safe, Healthy, Socially Inclusive, Climate-neutral and Circular Homes, Urban Infrastructure and Cities**



**UNECE**





# First-of-its-kind Indivisible, Action-oriented Principles for Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Design and Architecture

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- 1. People-centrality, social responsibility and inclusivity:** Urban planning, design and architecture need to foster and support social responsibility and integrate diversity and equality through due consideration of the needs of individuals and households across all races, age groups, gender, cultures, abilities and income levels, including intergenerational planning.
- 2. Cultural identity, values and heritage:** Urban planning, design and architecture should respect the identity and cultural heritage of places and buildings as well as the cultural values and traditions of communities.
- 3. Resource efficiency and circularity:** Every city, urban infrastructure and building should be designed in a way that limits the use of energy, uses only sustainable energy sources, reuses rainwater and limits the use of other natural resources and reduces resource losses. In addition, every city, urban infrastructure and building should, to the extent possible, by design: use recycled materials; reuse and requalify spaces; reduce the production of waste reuse water; and encourage food production through urban agriculture, orchards and food forests.
- 4. Safety and health:** Every city, urban infrastructure and building should be based on internationally recognised quality standards as well as safety standards for workers and citizens, including fire safety. Homes should provide a comfortable, safe and healthy living space, while cities and urban spaces should be designed with the imperatives of ensuring the safety and health of citizens; providing safe and sustainable mobility systems, including rail, road, inland waterways as well as walking and meeting spaces, green areas and urban forests that are accessible to all. Port cities need to ensure that port facilities are up to international transport and safety standards.
- 5. Respect for nature and natural systems and processes:** Every city, urban infrastructure and building should be designed in a way that limits its impact on the ecosystem of surrounding spaces, including by respecting plants, animals, and other organisms, as well as weather and natural habitats. This implies conducting ex-ante environmental impact assessments, allowing spaces for biodiversity and using natural materials as well as low impact production assembling and dismantling processes.
- 6. Climate neutrality:** Cities, urban infrastructure and buildings should be designed and requalified to minimize the associated climate footprint, by adopting creative solutions that reduce pollution and energy use; phase out unsustainable mobility systems; use modern, energy-efficient, climate-neutral systems; and integrate green energy generation systems in city designs and buildings.
- 7. People-smartness:** Technology and smart information and communications technology solutions should be used to improve liveability, including the most socially disadvantaged, bolster transparency and curb corruption.
- 8. Resilience, durability, functionality and foresight:** City and architectural design should support solutions that make homes, buildings and urban spaces resilient to natural disasters, especially those caused by climate change, including hurricanes, droughts and wildfires, flooding and high winds; and making buildings and infrastructures durable and flexible, incorporating spatial adaptability to accommodate new conditions and usages over time.
- 9. Affordability and accessibility:** Cities and homes need to be affordable and accessible to all citizens. Designers need to keep this factor in mind and design high-quality environments for meeting the needs of all citizens.
- 10. Inter-disciplinary cooperation and networking:** Cities and urban spaces should be designed to foster cohabitation, community engagement, solidarity and social cohesion taking into account the needs of citizens across all races, age groups, gender, cultures, abilities and income levels;
- 11. Engagement:** Consultation with and participation of the local communities is essential for any urban project, including small, medium and large-scale projects. Continuous engagement with various stakeholders, including longitudinal research, will foster trust, ensure responsiveness to the needs of all citizens, and consolidate shared ownership of the city's future.