

## LANDSCAPE DEMOCRACY

Landscape Democracy is a form of planning and design in which all citizens are meant to participate equally, either directly or through elected representatives in the proposal, development and establishment of the rules by which their landscape and open spaces are shaped.

The undersigned, as representatives of the 34 National Associations of the European Region of the International Federation of Landscape Architects, having considered Landscape democracy at our general assembly in Oslo,

## WE BELIEVE

landscape is integrative It functions as a platform to get people together to consider the future of the places they want to live in

democracy is participative It means involving people and including them as part of the decision making process

**Understanding** that landscape is a cultural construct, developed through an organic and cumulative process, forming part of a common heritage which is central to the development of life quality,

**Conscious** that Europe's citizens' present day situation is affected by climate change and globalization processes, which are contributing to social fragmentation, ecological imbalance and loss of cultural identity

**Realizing** there is an urgent need to shape our landscape for the benefit of all, preventing unsustainable exploitation, and forming a participative governance system, that will ensure appropriate responses to growing urbanisation, industrialisation and pollution.

## WE URGE

the Council of Europe, the European Union and all IFLA Europe Member States to develop a holistic vision regarding cultural, social, political, environmental, and economic balance beyond political borders, while

**Advocating** cultural policies in order to enhance education, training and professional competences so as to raise awareness with regard to landscape heritage and perception,

**Ensuring** a democratic vision capable of reasserting collective interests, surpassing cultural differences, strengthening the links between people and their environment,

Establishing landscape policies and programs that will ensure plural and collective participation,

**Developing** landscapes with local communities so that environmental challenges are addressed, drawing from local conditions and technologies for energy efficient landscapes and ecological integrity,

**Promoting** financial tools and managerial systems that enable communities to protect and improve their landscapes,

**Recognising** that IFLA Europe has the professional expertise, creative approach and holistic vision essential for the delivery of resilient societal solutions.

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

• The European Social Charter (CoE, 1961)

• The World Heritage Convention (Paris, 1972), whose Operative Guidelines first expressed the notion of Cultural Landscapes

• *The Recommendation on participation by the people at large in cultural life and their contribution to it* (UNESCO, Nairobi, 1976), with enhances an ample vision of democratic participation

• *The Action Plan on Cultural Policies for Development* (UNESCO, Stockholm, 1998), which recognises the importance of civil society within a democratic framework

• The European Landscape Convention (CoE, Florence, 2000)

AUSTRIA [ÖGLA] BELGIUM [ABAJP-BVTL] Karl GRIMM, Bernard CAPELLE, Delegate GA delegate BULGARIA [ULAB] CZECH REPUBLIC [CZLA] Katinka MIHOVA Igor KYSELKA, Delegate Delegate 1elle DENMARK [DL] ESTONIA [ELAU] Karen SEJR, Teele NIGOLA, Delegate FINLAND [MARK] FRANCE [FFP] Arto KAITURI, Karin HELMS, President Delegate Alla

GERMANY [BDLA] Fritz AUWECK, Delegate

GREECE [PHALA] Thanos SKLAVENITIS, President HUNGARY [HALA] Gyöngyvér SZABÓ, Delegate

ICELAND [FILA] Hermann Georg GUNNLAUGSSON,

President

ITALY **[AIAPP]** Ana SESSAREGO, Delegate

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LITHUANIA **[LALA]** Vaiva DEVEIKIENĖ, President

NORWAY [NLA] Aase HØRSDAL, President

PORTUGAL **[APAP]** Margarida CANCELA D'ABREU, Delegate

Margaridat. Abreu

IRELAND **[ILI]** Tony WILLIAMS, President

ISRAEL [ISALA] Leor LOVINGER, Delegate

LATVIA **[LAAB]** Lilita ZELTIŅA, Delegate

NETHERLANDS [NVTL] Gertjan JOBSE, Delegate

POLAND [SAK] Urszula FORCZEK-BRATANIEC, Delegate

auce

ROMANIA **[ASOP]** Alexandru ClOBOTĂ, President

SERBIA [UPAS] SWITZERLAND [BSLA] Andreja TUTUNDZIC, Christian TSCHUMI, Delegate Delegate SPAIN [AEP] UNITED KINGDOM [LI] Cristina DEL POZO, Noel FARRER, Delegate President DAI SWEDEN [SVERIGES ARKITEKTER] TURKEY [CTLA] Liv SONNTAG, Ayşegül ORUÇKAPTAN, President President

The Executive Council of IFLA EUROPE certifies this document, as elected representatives of the 34 national associations that comprise the Federation,

leella Ana LUENGO, President

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Tony WILLIAMS, Vice President Education

Jeremy DENNIS, Treasurer.

Manne

Marina CERVERA, Secretary General

Andre/CONDOROS Vice President Professional Practice

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