

Montréal Communiqué – Global Planners Network Congress Montréal, Canada, 2 - 5 October 2010

The Global Planners Network represents the planning profession in the world. It formed in 2006 to address the global challenges of rapid urbanisation, urban poverty and climate change and natural disasters. The Network's third Global Planning Congress in Montreal has brought together planning organisations from around the world to consider the challenges presented by climate change, and complements the Canadian Institute of Planners Declaration, arising out of its 2010 Montreal Conference, under the theme of 'Climate Change and Communities: A Call to Action.'

The Global Planners Network notes that the scientific evidence clearly indicates that the degradation of the environment brought about by climate change and human activities is having a profound impact on biophysical, social and economic systems. We also note that human settlements are a particular focus for attention as urban areas contribute up to 70% of greenhouse gases. There can therefore be no doubt that human settlements need to be at the centre of adaptation and mitigation strategies.

The Global Planners Network says that:

- ☞ Climate change is an issue that has no boundaries and everyone will be affected by its impacts. There is therefore a need for collective action to address the causes of climate change and to prepare for its consequences. **[Collective Action]**
- ☞ The best long-term insurance against climate change is to restore and sustain natural ecosystems. **[Enhance Ecosystems]**
- ☞ There can be no sustainable development without sustainable urbanisation and no sustainable urbanisation without effective planning. As the GPN's 2006 Vancouver Declaration asserts, this requires a commitment to strategies that have regard to the longer-term. **[Sustainable Urbanism]**
- ☞ Effective planning for sustainable development must be based on the principles of 'Reinventing Planning', which underpin the [Vancouver Declaration](#). **[Planning Principles]**
- ☞ Effective planning can ensure we get the right development, in the right place and at the right time to secure a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations. **[Proactive Planning]**

The Global Planners Network commits to:

- ☞ Engaging more urgently and more closely with professional colleagues, other professions, governments, and all sectors of society **[Leadership]** in order to:
 - ☞ develop strategies and programmes to respond to the challenges of climate change, including building resilience;
 - ☞ build more appropriate legal and policy frameworks to manage human settlements more sustainably;
 - ☞ promote inclusive and participatory planning processes;
 - ☞ build capacity through knowledge sharing and developing new understanding about climate change and its impacts; and
 - ☞ empower planners working at the grass-roots level to translate knowledge appropriate to their local context.
- ☞ Promote continuing professional development for the acquisition of new skills and expertise in appropriate planning responses to climate change in all its different facets. **[Build Capacity]**
- ☞ Advocate for effective spatial planning practice to optimise the most productive and efficient use of land for the sensitive management of resources; the security of food and water; the environmental, social and economically sustainable development of human settlements; and the continuation of cultural connectivity to the landscape. **[Effective Planning Practice]**
- ☞ Prepare a climate change framework for its partners and supporters to participate in collective local, national and international initiatives, where the respective experiences can be shared through the network. **[Climate Change Framework]**