

XXIX UIA General Assembly  
Copenhagen (Denmark): 6 – 9 July 2023

Item 8.1.4.on the agenda

## **UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS COMMISSION – ACTIVITY REPORT**

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### **MISSION, STRUCTURE AND MEETINGS**

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Through the establishment of a Commission that responds directly to the SDGs, the UIA can be influential in raising awareness, creating knowledge, facilitating communication and disseminating information across its global network of members. In doing so, the Commission aims to ensure that architects are not just responsive to the new Agenda for Sustainable Development, but prescriptive in its implementation and evolution.

The commission is composed of 43 members (including 3 Council Members) from the different UIA Regions. See the full list of members and further material on the UIA Website: <https://www.uiaarchitectes.org/webApi/en/working-bodies/sdg>. 4 subgroups with the participation of 24 members from the 5 regions were also formed.

The commission held 7 online General Meetings till date since the official appointment of the SDGC co-directors in February 2022 beside the subgroups' internal meetings. The subgroups held several parallel meetings. The last Commission meeting was held on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **COMMISSION'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND DELIVERABLES**

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#### **1. SDG Guidebook to the 2030 Agenda:**

A new version of “A Guidebook to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals” was proposed. The book still demonstrates the interaction of architecture with each and every one of the SDGs, but had a new selection process, looking for cases from across the globe with real contributions to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals based on three categories: (i) experiences from the past; (ii) last decade projects; (iii) inspirations for the future. Volume 1 of the book was published on 5 December 2018 and volume 2 on 30 October 2020 as an outcome of the partnership between the UIA SDG commission, the UIA2023Cph and the Royal Danish Academy. New translated versions and national initiatives are being conducted by the national sections in the different regions. The Call for Proposals was launched on February 13<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for registration and submission of work was April 30, 2023, 11:59 PM (CET). A total of 147 submissions was made from the 5 UIA Regions. Results announcement will be done during UIA2023 Congress (July 5, 2023) and the Guidebook Launch and Lives will happen during the UN Urban October 2023 activities.

#### **2. Architect's SDG Toolbox:**

The initiative developed by Yves Monnot aims to measure impact of SDG on our built environment design and is considered as assistance in the design and implementation of Architecture projects. It is based on official documents (17 UN SDG + 169 targets + 232 Global Monitoring Indicators (UN) to identify indicators applicable to the design and construction of sustainable projects. Additional communication with the UIA Professional Practice Commission Co-Director and members is happening in the past few months to develop an online version/application for the Toolbox. The proposed cooperation with other UIA Commissions and Working Groups strengthen the relation between various UIA projects through complementary activities. The Toolkit will be used as tool to guide and help submissions to the new SDG Guidebook following editions.

#### **3. The UIA Award for *Innovation in Architectural Education (SDG)*:**

The second cycle of the Award is a joint activity between the Education Commission and SDG Commission. The Award recognizes excellence in architectural and urban design education, focusing on innovative pedagogies that foster the development of sustainable environments across the five UIA regions. It was launched in September 2022 while the deadline for submission of projects was the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2023.

Examination of eligibility of entries took place from the 1<sup>st</sup> till the 15<sup>th</sup> of February and the evaluation of entries and online jury meetings were from the 20<sup>th</sup> of February till the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2023. An inaugural webinar was held in October 2022 featuring Anna Rubo (to reflect on best practice examples related to the award topic), Asharf Salama, EDUCOM Co-Director (to describe briefly the previous award, introduce this edition of the award), 2 winners from last year's Award: Elizabeth Golden, University of Washington, Seattle, USA and Song Yehao, Tsinghua University, China, Ilaria Valente (to describe the EAAE action plan for the integration of SDGs). The Announcement of Results was on the 17th of April 2023. The UIA recognised 15 submissions from 12 countries on 4 UIA Regions were shortlisted out of over 35 registrations. Awards Ceremony will happen during the UIA Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark.

## **ENGAGEMENT IN UIA/INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES EVENTS:**

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### **1. The UNFCCC COP27, Sharm Elsheikh, Egypt, 6-18 November 2022**

The Commission presented its related activities to the Global Climate Change in both the Blue and Green Zones. The Active Participation in Blue Zone Events was in collaboration with the Climate Heritage Network CHN and the ISCO Organization. The official delegation of the UIA consisted of Ishtiaque Zahir Titas (R4 VP and Commission Advisor), Tokunbo Omisore (R5 VP) and Iman Gawad (SDG Commission Codirector). The commission also attended, as an observer, the ministerial meetings in the Blue Zone and in the Saudi Green Initiative pavilion.

### **2. The World Circular Economy Forum 2023, Helsinki, Finland, 30-31<sup>st</sup> of May 2023 & The Global ABC 2023 Assembly, Helsinki, Finland, 1-2 June 2023**

The Commission's member Daniele Menichini (Italy) represented the commission in both events. The WCEF is a global initiative of Finland and Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund. It presented a focused agenda on accelerating the needed transition over the coming years, showcasing global change makers and building the capacity to collaborate. The Forum also included several important plenaries such as *Circular solutions for nature and the economy* and *Visions for a circular future by young leaders*. Daniele attended 2 plenary sessions entitled "adaptation" and "materials". Potential cooperations in COP28 were also explored.

## **REPRESENTATION IN COPENHAGEN WORLD CONGRESS**

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The SDG Commission, together with the UIA Education and the Professional Practice Commissions are planning a joint inter-commissions exhibition area in the Copenhagen Congress. Virtual meetings were held between the 3 commissions' co-directors to ensure the success of the joint activity. The commission will also conduct a Session focused on the Congress theme. A commission's subgroup was formed specifically for this purpose. The commissions are also planning to organise sessions focusing on the joint projects/activities scope.

The new SDG Guidebook will have its results announced in the Congress. Also, during the Congress, several activities are planned to be developed in the Commission exhibition area, such as the launch of the Hong Kong and the Brazil Sections Publications regarding the SDGs; talks about the UIA 2030 Award; the announcement of the SDG Guidebook projects; a talk with Yves Monnot about the Toolbox; talks about the EDUCOM Award; and talks regarding COP26, COP27 and COP28.

## **PLANNED UPCOMING EVENTS**

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### **1. COP28, Dubai, UAE 30 November – 12 December 2023**

Discussions and brainstorming are being made with different UIA working entities and regions to identify the UIA exact mission and "Climate Architecture" to the next Climate summit in UAE this year. Various information on potential alliances is being collected as well. The commission is developing a proposal with the Africa Union of Architects AUA till now.

### **2. La Biennale di Venezia, Collateral Event of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition, Italy 2023,**

The commission will present the 2030 Guidebook results and experiences at the Climate Wunderkammer events.



It is a project promoted by RWTH Aachen University, Politecnico di Milano (PoliMi), Università di Venezia (IUAV), Delft University of Technology, Chalmers University of Technology, Alexandria University, German Jordanian University, University of Pretoria, Singapore University of Technology and Design, and International Union of Architects. The commission representation will be in 2 different events as follows:

- a) *Collateral Event of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition – Atlas of Hope Conference, 29 June 2023.* The conference offers a platform for sharing knowledge between invited academics, practitioners and students from all over the world to collaborate on developing narratives of hope through devising possible actions and solutions.
- b) *Climate Roundtable, 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2023.* The roundtable is a hybrid dialogue led by the involved institutions in which various participants share and reflect on narratives and practices of response, adaptation and transformation.

### **3. UIA 2030 Award/World Urban forum, WUF 12, Cairo, Egypt, 4–8 November 2024**

The Commission's codirectors attended virtual meetings with the UIA 2030 Award team and the UN Habitat which led to the development of a proposal for the Awards Second Cycle. Results will be announced during the World Urban forum, WUF 12 in Cairo, 2024. The UIA SDG Commission will also participate with side events, exhibition and other activities.