

THE BUILDING SECTOR IN THE FACE OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY¹

In a disruptive context, marked both by the effects of globalisation and digitisation and by overpopulation, the progressive depletion of natural resources, the loss of biodiversity and the increased social instability that it is all causing, **the professionals and the firms working in the housing and building sector acknowledge that climate change is the most pressing challenge of the moment and that NOW is the time to take action**, shouldering individual and collective responsibilities.

In our field, we are firmly aware of and committed to the UN's Agenda 2030 and the global initiatives aimed at protecting and conserving our planet, guaranteeing the quality of life of present and future generations. For this reason we believe it is imperative to recognise the current climate emergency situation and the capital importance of transforming and adapting the built habitat, in view of the fact that buildings and construction work cause almost 40% of carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, with the consequent impact on our natural habitats.

For the professionals and firms working in the building sector, meeting the demands and needs of our society while respecting the limits and ecological equilibria of the Earth calls for a change of paradigm in our behaviour. Consequently we will need to design and build buildings, cities and infrastructures that begin to be seen as indivisible components of a bigger, more resilient and self-sustaining system for the whole of their life cycle.

We have the knowledge and technical know-how to begin that transformation. What is necessary now is the will, commitment and cooperation of all concerned, in order for the changes to be real and at the right speed, before the damage becomes irreversible.

To that end, the professionals and firms working in the real estate and building sector in Spain **MAKE A PLEDGE TO STRIVE TO:**

- Further as many initiatives as necessary in order to raise people's awareness of the climate emergency and the need to adapt homes, buildings and cities to curb it.
- Collaborate with the public authorities in order to speed up the transformation of cities and steer that transformation towards sustainability.
- Promote environmental, social and economic sustainability in our undertakings and establish it as a quality criterion in project development, public tenders, awards and exhibitions.
- Share knowledge and research and create strategic alliances.
- Speed up the pace of the restoration and adaptation of existing buildings, in order to be able to meet the goals set.
- Take into account the complete life cycle of buildings, respecting circular economy principles as far as possible.
- Opt for designs that go beyond the net carbon emissions standard.
- Collaborate to reduce further still the waste generated by building works and encourage the use of renewable materials with low environmental impact in all the work we do.
- Promote a responsible use of natural resources in architecture and urbanism from a dual quantitative and qualitative perspective.

¹ A declaration promoted by the Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España (CSCAE) through 'Observatorio 2030'