

Dear distinguished Presidents of Region II and UIA friends,

We are all aware that we are living in times of enormous global changes and the challenges that we face as architects will force us to review many aspects of our profession.

To mention just a few, we must improve our relationship with society, with our cities, with the defense of heritage and in the accomplishment of the UN Urban Agenda, we will have to deal with the climate change, with the education of new architects, with the gender equality and with the defense of the dignity of the architect throughout the world.

The pandemic we are experiencing has only accelerated and highlighted all these challenges and the UIA, as our world organization of architects, must give a response to them. It is our responsibility and what I will assume if elected for President.

Our world is diverse, and that diversity is one of the most important assets that we have as International Union of Architects. It is my conviction that every Section should have equal opportunities to work for the UIA whatever their financial situation is.

As the important program, I propose to start immediately the revision of the UIA, from the objectives to the governance and financial principles, to adapt it to the times we live in and to the needs that architects have and will have in the future.

It is not possible to specify measures without first discussing, among all of us, what we want the UIA to be.

Digitization, communication, new sources of revenues independent of the Section's fees, the institutional relations and those with the private sector, the young architects and the Schools of Architecture, will be among the many issues to be analyzed and optimized.

What I can commit now as candidate to the post of President of the UIA is to open a well-coordinated procedure with a fluent participation of all the Member Sections and the UIA governing and working bodies in an agile, transparent and democratic way.

For the last 15 years, I have been a member of the UIA Council, President of the UIA Congress that took place in Seoul in 2017 and Vice-president of Region IV.

This activity has given me the opportunity to get to know our organization in depth, to value the importance of being fraternally united with a common goal. It is not possible to move forward with a divided UIA, where internal dialogue does not exist.

If elected as President, the new Bureau and Council members will play the important role that our statutes give to them and will have the financial and technical means to carry out the review of the UIA that the architects of the world are demanding of us.

Still 1948 declaration of UIA founding Principles are valid today. Unite the architects of the world on a democratic basis in order to embrace the spirit that this ever-changing 21st century demands of us.

Thank you,

Jong-Ruhl HAHN

UIA Vice President of RIV & Candidate for UIA PRESIDENT