

# THE MARSEILLES DECLARATION

## WORLD TOWN PLANNING DAY (WTPD) 2005

We, the men and women who attended the World Urbanism Days in Marseilles, at the invitation of the *Société Française des Urbanistes* and its partners, territorial authorities, State agencies, educators, researchers, enterprises and citizens,

Given that 8 November was declared World Urbanism Day in 1949 and that it is celebrated in more than 30 countries on four continents as an event which appeals to the conscience of citizens and public authorities in order to draw attention to the environmental impact resulting from the development of cities and territories,

Given that the city is a place for building social relationships and encouraging human development, especially when the city is in harmony with the territories that nurture it,

Given that research in urban planning, essential for initiation to life in our society, demands that priority is given to questions of public interest and to the development of appropriate resources,

Given that projects, whether local or global, which focus on serving the well-being of its inhabitants, require a strong political commitment by both public and private teams of qualified professionals, and honest governance, based on the principle of individual and collective responsibility which is itself sustained by extensive decentralization,

Given that the upheavals taking place in the world and the disappearance of a vital and direct relationship between Humans and Nature – water, air, land and energy – bring in their train poverty and violence; the recent tragic events taking place in some French neighbourhoods, amongst other world calamities, provide a poignant reminder,

Because we are convinced that our individual and collective actions contribute to bringing about global change and because there exists another choice for society, between abundance and scarcity, leading to a sustainable city and territory and contributing to the future of the planet,

Because we believe, as was proclaimed in the New Charter of Athens 2003 signed by representatives of town planning associations from the 25 countries members of the European Council of Town Planners, that functionalism is not the only option for the future, that we can build a future based on a vision of networked cities, a future which fosters social, economic and environmental cohesion sustained by hope and humanism,

Because we believe that the three-fold combination “property-resources-development” can offer a rich transversal cohesion to which aspire all inhabitants of cities and territories, both in the North and in the South,

We, France’s town planners gathered here in Marseilles, commit ourselves to the following three statements:

- It is possible to create a new social contract, if each person agrees to promote daily the city as a place for sharing spaces and its many uses in a society based on mutual respect,
- It is possible to respond to the climatic challenges if we become eco-citizens, if we take responsibility for the environment for ourselves and for future generations, by adopting the “Factor 4” target for greenhouse gases in industrialized countries,
- It is possible to change our travel patterns, if we are prepared to rediscover the importance and pleasure of travelling in gentler and collective transport systems.

For these reasons:

- We encourage cities and territories to adhere to the Aalborg Charter, the latest link in a chain of world solidarity, which began at the Rio Summit in 1992 – which the City of Marseilles has signed.
- We ask the European Union, the French Government, and all territorial authorities to give priority to choosing sustainable and supportable development as criteria at every phase in making decisions on urban and territorial development, and to using the most advanced methods in the use of positive energy, particularly in terms of the concrete development of neighbourhoods, regions and territories.
- We urgently invite local authority and local council members to demonstrate their political commitment and courage.
- And, more specifically, we ask territorial authorities, in conformity with the Environmental Charter which is part of the French Constitution, to take into account climatic change, security and sobriety in the use of energy, and local production of renewable sources of energy.

For all these reasons, therefore, let us dare to dream, to aspire, and to create beauty for every human being in their daily life, regardless of the neighbourhood, city or territory in which they live, in France and in the rest of the world.