

Batumi declaration

Batumi, Georgia,

14-15 October, 2017

Adopted at the meeting of the Forum of Architects of the Black Sea Region (FABSR)

Representatives from professional organizations of FABSR member countries- Armenia, Bulgaria, Russia, Turkey, Georgia and Ukraine gathered at the FABSR conference in Batumi, Georgia:

Recognizing globalization, climate change and other challenges in contemporary world,

Drawing attention to important professional and social responsibilities of architects for achieving sustainable development goals in the Black Sea region,

Noting the importance of FABSR activity in the Black Sea region,

Underlining the necessity to reaffirm the goals and the strategy of this organization,

Taking into account the concerns and commitments made in their previous declarations of Tbilisi, Sofia, Istanbul, Trabzon, and Tulcea,

FABSR members have agreed upon working on the enhancement of their communication and collaboration for realization of obligations and goals stated in these declarations and taking a dynamic role in activities to be carried out within the following priority directions:

Development of communication and information

- effective use of all means of communication and information for relations and collaboration with the central and local administrations, universities and research centers, professional and cultural organizations, society, governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Black Sea region.
- formation of a joint scientific- information network
- support of joint projects such as exhibitions, competitions, etc.
- close collaboration with the International Union of Architects (UIA)
- deepen relations with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)
- establishment of relations with other professional organizations.

Sustainable development of the region

- Involvement in the discussions/considerations of such infrastructure projects, which might have a negative impact on the region's environment and elaborate joint position towards these projects.

- organization of joint seminars, conferences for sharing knowledge and practical experience between regional experts on the following issues - climate change, environmental problems, renewable energy sources, protection and strengthening of coastal line ...etc.
- enhancement of architectural tourism development, creation of an electronic database of unique sites in the Black Sea region and its popularization .

Enhancement of scientific activities, quality of architectural education and professional standards in architectural practice.

- facilitation of exchange programs of students and scientific-educational staff, joint scientific-practical conferences, publications;
- establishment of architectural scientific- practical electronic journal.
- promotion higher professional standards in architectural practice in the region.

Protection and socialization of cultural heritage

- Establishment of relations with ICOMOS national committees and other institutions working on historical heritage protection and preservation issues.
- considerations of intervention projects in historic sites of the region, promoting guideline recommendations and coordination activities.

With this declaration, FABSR members once again emphasize the importance of the Forum, declare their readiness / willingness to activate FABSR operation and address the central and local administrations, universities and research centers, professional and cultural organizations in the region to support activities of the Forum for the benefit of the Black Sea region.

FABSR supports peace and non-violence policies in the region for facilitating establishment of higher standards in the built environment of the people in the Black Sea area!

Signed by authorized representatives of Armenia, Bulgaria, Russia, Turkey, Georgia and Ukraine