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Rio de Janeiro, 20 de março de 2021

The pandemic showed the interdependence between economy, politics, society, environment, planet and city. It also showed the enormous urban difficulties. The current crisis encourages us to reflect on the environment we want.

With the theme “All Worlds. Just One World. Architecture 21”, the 27th World Congress of Architects UIA2021RIO, the largest meeting of architecture and urban planning in the world, acquired even greater responsibility in the context of this global crisis.

Our commitment is so that architects from all over the world can interact with each other and with all those interested in helping to build a healthy, more supportive, less unequal urban life. We also invite students and young professionals, social movements, institutions focused on the environment, urban planning, architecture, construction and culture.

The urban world is not ready. On the contrary, it is in permanent construction. From cities in developing countries to consolidated cities in developed countries. The first, in this generation, will build new houses equivalent to half of what has been built until today – a gigantic challenge for young architects, who may have the opportunity to produce architectures for everyone! This challenge is added to that of the consolidated cities, which face important issues related to the environment, the reception of immigrants, gender equity, and the confrontation of urban segregation, among others.

It is worth remembering what the French philosopher Edgar Morin tells us, from the height of his 99 years: “The post-epidemic will be an uncertain adventure in which the forces of the worst and the best will develop, these being still weak and dispersed. Let us consider that the worst is not certain, that the improbable can happen, and that it is healthy and invigorating to take sides with life.”

We hope that the Congress will be an opportunity for reflection, debate and a rich exchange of experiences. But not only: it is also a propositional place to say what we want for the City of the 21st century.

The 27th World Congress of Architects is now expanded to enable the participation of people from all over the world who would have difficulties to be present in Rio de Janeiro. From March to July, we will have an extensive and intense virtual program, open to all continents. The biggest names in architecture and culture will be speakers, exhibitors and will debate the future of architecture and the city. Be with them.

Add your energy to this global gathering.

Thank you very much,

**Sérgio Magalhães**

UIA2021RIO Executive Committee President

