

ISRAEL PLANNERS ASSOCIATION CHARTER FOR SUSTAINABLE PLANNING

Introduction

Planners play a key role in guiding private and public action mechanisms and in providing consulting services to public officials and entire communities. This is in order to enable them to provide an optimum and sustainable response to the needs of individuals, society and the environment.

Therefore, the planners members of the Association enter into this charter with the public and undertake to uphold the following values in their professional work.

Commitment to Community and Society

Planning is a comprehensive activity which aspires to achieve the shared objectives of both society and community.

Planners are committed to identifying values, defining objectives that derive from those values, and to developing the tools required to attain them. Planners are especially committed to being fair in the distribution of costs and benefits while respecting the needs and desires of different groups, regardless of age, gender, income, education, religion, nationality, culture, origin and customs, with an emphasis on challenged populations.

Commitment to People

Planning is a humane act intended for people.

The planners are committed to anyone who is affected by a planning activity, even if that person is different, has different opinions or belongs to a minority. Planning also serves the unfortunate or the challenged, with special emphasis on those whose opinions are not heard. Planners will defend their rights, aspiring to ensure their wellbeing, empowerment and self realization.

Commitment to Growth and Prosperity

Spatial organization is a core tool for achieving growth and prosperity.

The planners are committed to creating a framework of economic and cultural growth that enables competition, and which supports processes involving social changes.

Commitment to Public Places and Spaces

In a competitive, global and networked world, local identity and the sense of place are particularly important.

The planners are committed to identifying the values of a place, including its overt and covert heritage, and to creating, through the act of planning, a suitable and unique place. This commitment focuses on nurturing and developing public areas as meeting places and as a quality expression of culture and values.

Commitment to the Environment and Public Health

Environmental quality is an important condition for the health, welfare and prosperity of both individuals and society.

The planners are committed to preserving and nurturing public health, the environment, and the ecological balance between nature, man and man's actions. They are committed to the prevention of contamination of soil, air and water, and to preserving the variety of flora, fauna and perishable resources from a local, regional and universal perspective, in this generation and in generations to come.

Commitment to Cultural Diversity and Renewal

Pluralism, cultural diversity and multiplicity of initiatives are the secrets behind the power of a society and its economy to renew itself, compete and survive.

The planners are committed to encouraging initiatives and to creating and fostering cultural richness within planning frameworks that are flexible and enabling, and which lead to openness and to competitive initiatives.

Commitment to Effective Mobility

Mobility is an essential condition for progress, welfare and growth, for individuals, groups, organizations and society at large. Yet, the costs of mobility may be high to both society and the environment.

The planners are committed to developing mobility, to making it efficient and to reducing its damages, putting emphasis on equal mobility and accessibility for all groups, regardless of age, income or gender, and for people with disabilities. Heading the list of priorities is public transportation as a competitive, convenient, fast and reliable alternative to private vehicles.

Commitment to the City, Open Spaces and Rural Areas

The majority of the world's population – and in Israel over 90% – lives and function in cities. In the future, this majority will increase even more.

The city is home, a cultural haven. It represents economic opportunity for individuals, societies, peoples, states, and the entire world. Alongside concentration in the cities, the importance of open spaces is increasing – 'green lungs', recreational spaces, places of encounter with the values of nature and with man-made landscapes.

The contribution of agriculture and rural areas as a lifestyle, cultural heritage, as an economic foundation and as preservers of open spaces is essential.

The planners are committed to the renewal and development of the cities, to creating metropolitan cultures that satisfy the needs and desires of both present and future populations. At the same time, planners are committed to preserving and developing open spaces based on the values and heritage they represent.

The planners are committed to creating a clear distinction between built-up areas and open spaces to prevent the uncontrolled proliferation of suburbs that damage green open spaces, agriculture, rural areas and cities alike.

Commitment to Sustainable Planning

Sustainability extends the responsibility of planners beyond the realm of the time and place at their disposal.

The planners are committed to being extremely careful in the exploitation of perishable resources. They must understand the cumulative consequences in time and place of individual decisions and actions. They are also committed to ensuring extensive scope for the decision of future generations.

Commitment to the Law and to the Quality of Government

Consistent upholding of the law is a basic condition for the existence of planning in general and good planning in particular.

The planners are committed to upholding the law without detrimental effect on their ability to introduce innovation and criticize the government establishment, with the aim to promoting quality of government.

The planners are also committed to demonstrating good citizenship, educating towards public awareness, understanding the significance of planning, and to promoting an open civil discourse between government, planners and the public.

Commitment to Public Participation

Commitment to the public and to the community and the values upheld by planners alone will not suffice as a faithful reflection of the particular and changing needs and desires of the public that is affected by a plan.

The planners are committed to listening and to being sensitive to the needs of the public and those of the various interested parties, and to establishing a discourse with them, enabling them to truly participate in the identification of needs and desires, and to influence planning decisions. This must be done as early as possible in the planning process, in both formal and informal frameworks.

Commitment to Multidisciplinary Professionalism and to Ethics

At the core of the planners' role are professionalism and the values, morals and ethics they undertake to introduce into the planning process.

The planners are committed to act according to the best of their professional experience and knowledge, while learning, updating and advancing constantly in their field of expertise and in multidisciplinary understanding and broad knowledge. At the same time, the planners will cooperate with other planners and professionals and respect the codes of professional ethics.

Commitment to Quality

A plan is judged by its quality, the values it creates and the future it outlines.

The planners are committed to quality and leadership, to offering worthy objectives, to pointing the way to achieving those objectives, and to creating added value that is higher than the sum total of all components of a plan.

We, the members of the association, undertake these commitments towards the public, and consider them the foundations of our professional occupation as individuals, and as the basis for our involvement in the Israel Planners Association.