Union Internationale des Architectes • International Union of Architects

UIA Accord on Recommended International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice

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Note: Guideline Documents have been prepared and approved for the following Policy Issues of the Accord:

Accreditation/Validation/Recognition
Practical Experience/Training/Internship
Demonstration of Professional Knowledge and Ability
Registration/Licensing/Certification
Guide to Competitive Quality Based Selection of Architects
Ethics and Conduct
Continuing Professional Development
Scope of Practice
Forms of Practice
Practice in a Host Nation
Intellectual Property and Copyright
Governance of the Profession
Building Project Delivery Systems

Preamble

As professionals, architects have a primary duty of care to the communities they serve. This duty prevails over their personal interest and the interests of their clients.

In a world where trade in professional services is rapidly increasing and architects are regularly serving communities other than their own, the International Union of Architects believes that there is a need for International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice. Architects who meet the standards defined in this Accord will, by virtue of their education, competence and ethical behavior, be capable of protecting the best interests of the communities they serve.

Introduction

The UIA Council established the Professional Practice Commission and approved its program in 1994. Following some 25 months of intensive activity by the Commission during the 1993-1996 triennium, the UIA Assembly unanimously adopted the first edition of the Proposed UIA Accord on Recommended International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice in Barcelona, Spain in July 1996. By this action of the UIA Assembly, the Accord was established as policy recommendations to guide the ongoing work of the UIA and the UIA Professional Practice Commission.

The first edition of the Accord was transmitted to all member sections of the UIA with the request for their comments and cooperation in the further development of the policy framework for presentation to the XXI UIA Assembly in Beijing, China, in 1999. The 1997-1999 Professional Practice program focused on responding to comments and recommendations received from Council members, UIA member sections, and members of the Commission on the Accord and its policies. The first edition of the Accord was modified in response to those comments and as a result of Commission debate of the policy issue guideline documents being developed to flesh out the bare bones policy framework of the Accord.

The Accord and guidelines recognize the sovereignty of each UIA member section, allow flexibility for principles of equivalency, and are structured to allow for the addition of requirements reflecting local conditions of a UIA member section.

It is not the intention of the Accord to establish obligatory standards set by negotiated agreements between competing interests. Rather, the Accord is the result of the co-operative endeavor of the international community of architects to objectively establish standards and practices that will best serve community interests. The Accord and Guideline documents are intended to define what is considered best practice for the architectural profession and the standards to which the profession aspires. These are living documents and will be subject to ongoing review and modification as the weight of opinion and experience dictates. Whilst respecting the sovereignty of UIA member sections, they are invited and encouraged to promote the adoption of the Accord and the Guidelines and, if appropriate, seek the modification of existing customs and laws.

It is intended that the Accord and guidelines will provide practical guidance for governments, negotiating entities, or other entities entering mutual recognition negotiations on architectural services. The Accord and guidelines will make it easier for parties to negotiate recognition agreements. The most common way to achieve recognition has been through bilateral agreements, recognized as permissible under Article VII of the GATS. There are differences in education and examination standards, experience requirements, regulatory influence etc., all of which make implementing recognition on a multilateral basis extremely difficult. Bilateral negotiations will facilitate focus on key issues relating to two specific environments.

However, once achieved, bilateral reciprocal agreements should lead to others, which will ultimately extend mutual recognition more broadly.

The Accord begins with a statement of "Principles of Professionalism," followed by a series of policy issues. Each policy issue opens with a definition of the subject policy, followed by a statement of background and the policy.

The XXI UIA Assembly in Beijing, China unanimously adopted the Accord in June 1999. A copy of the Resolution of Adoption is attached as Appendix A.

UIA Accord on Recommended International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice

Principles of Professionalism

Members of the architectural profession are dedicated to standards of professionalism, integrity, and competence, and thereby bring to society unique skills and aptitudes essential to the sustainable development of the built environment and the welfare of their societies and cultures. Principles of professionalism are established in legislation, as well as in codes of ethics and regulations defining professional conduct:

Expertise: Architects possess a systematic body of knowledge, skills, and theory developed through education, graduate and post-graduate training, and experience. The process of architectural education, training, and examination is structured to assure the public that when an architect is engaged to perform professional services, that architect has met acceptable standards enabling proper performance of those services. Furthermore, members of most professional societies of architects and indeed, the UIA, are charged to maintain and advance their knowledge of the art and science of architecture, to respect the body of architectural accomplishment, and to contribute to its growth.

Autonomy: Architects provide objective expert advice to the client and/or the users. Architects are charged to uphold the ideal that learned and uncompromised professional judgment should take precedence over any other motive in the pursuit of the art and science of architecture.

Architects are also charged to embrace the spirit and letter of the laws governing their professional affairs and to thoughtfully consider the social and environmental impact of their professional activities.

Commitment: Architects bring a high level of selfless dedication to the work done on behalf of their clients and society. Members of the profession are charged to serve their clients in a competent and professional manner and to exercise unprejudiced and unbiased judgment on their behalf.

Accountability: Architects are aware of their responsibility for the independent and, if necessary, critical advice provided to their clients and for the effects of their work on society and the environment. Architects undertake to perform professional services only when they, together with those whom they may engage as consultants, are qualified by education, training, and/or experience in the specific technical areas involved.

The UIA, through the programs of its national sections and the Professional Practice Commission, seeks to establish principles of professionalism and professional standards in the interest of public health, safety, welfare, and culture, and supports the position that inter-recognition of standards of professionalism and competence is in the public interest as well as in the interest of maintaining the credibility of the profession.

The principles and standards of the UIA are aimed at the thorough education and practical training of architects so that they are able to fulfill their fundamental professional requirements. These standards recognize different national educational traditions and, therefore, allow for factors of equivalency.

Policy Issues

Practice of Architecture

Definition:

The practice of architecture consists of the provision of professional services in connection with town planning and the design, construction, enlargement, conservation, restoration, or alteration of a building or group of buildings. These professional services include, but are not limited to, planning and land-use planning, urban design, provision of preliminary studies, designs, models, drawings, specifications and technical documentation, coordination of technical documentation prepared by others (consulting engineers, urban planners, landscape architects and other specialist consultants) as appropriate and without limitation, construction economics, contract administration, monitoring of construction (referred to as "supervision" in some countries), and project management.

Background:

Architects have been practicing their art and science since antiquity. The profession as we know it today has undergone extensive growth and change. The profile of architects' work has become more demanding, clients' requirements and technological advances have become more complex, and social and ecological imperatives have grown more pressing. These changes have spawned changes in services and collaboration among the many parties involved in the design and construction process.

Policy:

That the practice of architecture as defined above be adopted for use in the development of UIA International Standards.

Architect

Definition:

The designation "architect" is generally reserved by law or custom to a person who is professionally and academically qualified and generally registered/licensed/certified to practice architecture in the jurisdiction in which he or she practices and is responsible for advocating the fair and sustainable development, welfare, and the cultural expression of society's habitat in terms of space, forms, and historical context.

Background:

Architects are part of the public and private sectors involved in a larger property development, building, and construction economic sector peopled by those commissioning, conserving, designing, building, furnishing, financing, regulating, and operating our built environment to meet the needs of society. Architects work in a variety of situations and organizational structures. For example, they may work on their own or as members of private or public offices.

Policy:

That the UIA adopt the definition of an "architect" as stated above for use in developing UIA International Standards.

Fundamental Requirements of an Architect

Definition:

The fundamental requirements for registration/licensing/certification as an architect as defined above, are the knowledge, skills, and abilities listed below that must be mastered through recognized education and training, and demonstrable knowledge, capability, and experience in order to be considered professionally qualified to practice architecture.

Background:

In August 1985, for the first time, a group of countries came together to set down the fundamental knowledge and abilities of an architect (*). These include:

3.1. Ability to create architectural designs that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements, and which aim to be environmentally sustainable;
3.2. Adequate knowledge of the history and theories of architecture and related arts, technologies, and human sciences;
3.3. Knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design;
3.4. Adequate knowledge of urban design, planning, and the skills involved in the planning process;
3.5. Understanding of the relationship between people and buildings and between buildings and their environments, and of the need to relate buildings and the spaces between them to human needs and scale;
3.6. Understanding of the profession of architecture and the role of architects in society, in particular in preparing briefs that account for social factors;
3.7. Understanding of the methods of investigation and preparation of the brief for a design project;
3.8. Understanding of the structural design, construction, and engineering problems associated with building design;
3.9. Adequate knowledge of physical problems and technologies and of the function of buildings so as to provide them with internal conditions of comfort and protection against climate;
3.10. Design skills necessary to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by cost factors and building regulations;
3.11. Adequate knowledge of the industries, organizations, regulations, and procedures involved in translating design concepts into buildings and integrating plans into overall planning;
3.12. Awareness of responsibilities toward human, social, cultural, urban, architectural, and environmental values, as well as architectural heritage.
3.13. Adequate knowledge of the means of achieving ecologically sustainable design and environmental conservation and rehabilitation.
3.14. Development of a creative competence in building techniques, founded on a comprehensive understanding of the disciplines and construction methods related to architecture.
3.15. Adequate knowledge of project financing, project management, cost control and methods of project delivery.
3.16. Training in research techniques as an inherent part of architectural learning, for both students and teachers.

That architectural education involves the acquisition of the following capabilities:

4.1. Design

4.1.1. Ability to engage imagination, think creatively, innovate and provide design leadership.
4.1.2. Ability to gather information, define problems, apply analyses and critical judgment and formulate strategies for action.
4.1.3. Ability to think three dimensionally in the exploration of design.
4.1.4. Ability to reconcile divergent factors, integrate knowledge and apply skills in the creation of a design solution.

4.2. Knowledge

4.2.1. Cultural and Artistic Studies

- Ability to act with knowledge of historical and cultural precedents in local and world architecture.
- Ability to act with knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design.
- Understanding of heritage issues in the built environment.
- Awareness of the links between architecture and other creative disciplines.

4.2.2. Social Studies

- Ability to act with knowledge of society, and to work with clients and users that represent society's needs.
- Ability to develop a project brief through definition of the needs of society. users and clients, and to research and define contextual and functional requirements for different types of built environments.
- Understanding of the social context in which built environments are procured, of ergonomic and space requirements and issues of equity and access.
- Awareness of the relevant codes, regulations and standards for planning, design, construction, health, safety and use of built environments.
- Awareness of philosophy, politics, and ethics as related to architecture.

4.2.3. Environmental Studies

- Ability to act with knowledge of natural systems and built environments.
- Understanding of conservation and waste management issues.
- Understanding of the life cycle of materials, issues of ecological sustainability, environmental impact, design for reduced use of energy, as well as passive systems and their management.
- Awareness of the history and practice of landscape architecture, urban design, as well as territorial and national planning and their relationship to local and global demography and resources.
- Awareness of the management of natural systems taking into account natural disaster risks.

4.2.4. Technical Studies

- Technical knowledge of structure, materials, and construction.
- Ability to act with innovative technical competence in the use of building techniques and the understanding of their evolution.
- Understanding of the processes of technical design and the integration of structure, construction technologies and services systems into a functionally effective whole.
- Understanding of services systems as well as systems of transportation, communication, maintenance and safety.
- Awareness of the role of technical documentation and specifications in design realization, and of the processes of construction cost planning and control.

4.2.5. Design Studies

- Knowledge of design theory and methods.
- Understanding of design procedures and processes.
- Knowledge of design precedents and architectural criticism.

4.2.6. Professional Studies

- Ability to understand different forms of procurement of architectural services.
- Understanding of the fundamental workings of the construction and development industries, such as finance, real estate investment and facilities management.
- Understanding of the potential roles of architects in conventional and new areas of activity and in an international context.
- Understanding of business principles and their application to the development of built environments, project management and the functioning of a professional consultancy.
- Understanding of professional ethics and codes of conduct as they apply to the practice of architecture and of the architects' legal responsibilities where registration, practice and building contracts are concerned.

4.2.7. Skill

- Ability to work in collaboration with other architects and members of interdisciplinary teams.
- Ability to act and to communicate ideas through collaboration, speaking, numeric, writing, drawing, modeling and evaluation.
- Ability to utilize manual, electronic, graphic and model making capabilities to explore, develop, define and communicate a design proposal.
- Understanding of systems of evaluation, that use manual and/or electronic means for performance assessments of built environments.

Policy:

That the UIA adopt a statement of fundamental requirements as set out above as the minimum basis for development of UIA International Standards and seek to ensure that these particular requirements are given adequate emphasis in the architectural curriculum. The UIA will also seek to ensure that the fundamental requirements will be constantly kept under review so that they remain relevant as the architectural profession and society evolve.

(* Cf. Derived from Directive 85/384/EEC of the Commission of the European Communities)

Education

Definition:

Architectural education should ensure that all graduates have knowledge and ability in architectural design, including technical systems and requirements as well as consideration of health, safety, and ecological balance; that they understand the cultural, intellectual, historical, social, economic, and environmental context for architecture; and that they comprehend thoroughly the architects' roles and responsibilities in society, which depend on a cultivated, analytical and creative mind.

Background:

In most countries, architectural education is conventionally delivered by 4-6 years full-time academic education at a university (followed, in some countries, by a period of practical experience/training/internship), though historically there have been important variations (part-time routes, work experience etc.).

Policy:

In accordance with the UIA/UNESCO Charter for Architectural Education, the UIA advocate that education for architects (apart from practical experience/training/internship) be of no less than 5 years duration, delivered on a full-time basis in an accredited/validated/recognized architectural program in an accredited/validated/recognized university, while allowing variety in their pedagogic approach and in their responses to local contexts, and flexibility for equivalency.

Accreditation/Validation/Recognition

Definition:

This is the process that establishes that an educational program meets an established standard of achievement. Its purpose is to assure the maintenance and enhancement of an appropriate educational foundation.

Background:

Validated criteria and procedures for accreditation/validation/recognition by an independent organization help to develop well integrated and coordinated programs of architectural education. Experience shows that standards may be harmonized and promoted by regular, external monitoring, in some countries, in addition to internal quality assurance audits.

Policy:

That courses must be accredited/validated/recognized by an independent relevant authority, external to the university at reasonable time intervals (usually no more than 5-years), and that the UIA, in association with the relevant national organizations of higher education, develop standards for the content of an architect's professional education that are academically structured, intellectually coherent, performance-based and outcome-oriented, with procedures that are guided by good practice.

Practical Experience/Training/Internship

Definition:

Practical experience/training/internship is a directed and structured activity in the practice of architecture during architectural education and/or following receipt of a professional degree but prior to registration/licensing/certification.

Background:

To complement academic preparation in order to protect the public, applicants for registration/licensing/certification must integrate their formal education through practical training.

Policy:

That graduates of architecture will be required to have completed at least 2 years of acceptable experience/training/internship prior to registration/licensing/certification to practice as an architect (but with the objective of working towards 3 years) while allowing flexibility for equivalency.

Demonstration of Professional Knowledge and Ability

Definition:

Every applicant for registration/licensing/certification as an architect is required to demonstrate an acceptable level of professional knowledge and ability to the relevant national authority.

Background:

The public is assured of an architect's knowledge and ability only after he or she has acquired the requisite education and practical experience/training/internship, and demonstrated minimum knowledge and ability in the comprehensive practice of architecture. These qualifications have to be demonstrated by examination and/or other evidence.

Policy:

That the acquired knowledge and ability of an architect have to be proven by providing adequate evidence. This evidence must include the successful completion of at least one examination at the end of the practical experience/training/internship. Necessary components of professional practice knowledge and ability that are not subject to an examination have to be proven by other adequate evidence. These include such subjects as business administration and relevant legal requirements.

Registration/Licensing/Certification

Definition:

Registration/licensing/certification is the official legal recognition of an individual's qualification allowing her or him to practice as an architect, associated with regulations preventing unqualified persons from performing certain functions.

Background:

Given the public interest in a quality, sustainable built environment and the dangers and consequences associated with the development of that environment, it is important that architectural services are provided by properly qualified professionals for the adequate protection of the public.

Policy:

That the UIA promote the registration/licensing/certification of the function of architects in all countries. In the public interest, provision for such registration/licensing/certification should be by statute.

Procurement

Definition:

The process by which architectural services are commissioned.

Background:

Architects (through their codes of conduct) uphold the interests of their clients and society at large before their own interests. In order to ensure they have adequate resources to perform their functions to the standards required in the public interest, they are traditionally remunerated in accordance with either mandatory or recommended professional fee-scales.

There are international rules, such as the General Procurement Agreement (WTO) and the EU Services Directive, that aim to guarantee the objective and fair selection of architects. However, there has been an increasing tendency recently to select architects, for both public

and private work, on the basis of price alone. Price-based selection forces architects to reduce the services provided to clients, which in turn compromises design quality and therefore the quality, amenity and social/economic value of the built environment.

Policy:

To ensure the ecologically sustainable development of the built environment and to protect the social, cultural, and economic value of society, governments should apply procurement procedures for the appointment of architects that are directed to the selection of the most suitable architect for projects. Conditional upon adequate resources being agreed among the parties, this is best achieved by one of the following methods:

- Architectural design competitions conducted in accordance with the principles defined by the UNESCO-UIA international competitions guidelines and approved by national authorities and/or architectural professional associations.
- A quality based selection (QBS) procedure as set out in the UIA guidelines;
- Direct negotiation based on a complete brief defining the scope and quality of architectural services;

Ethics and Conduct

Definition:

A code of ethics and conduct establishes a professional standard of behavior that guides architects in the conduct of their practices. Architects should observe and follow the code of ethics and conduct for each jurisdiction in which they practice.

Background:

Rules of ethics and conduct have as their primary object the protection of the public, caring for the less powerful and the general social welfare, as well as the advancement of the interests of the profession of architecture.

Policy:

The existing UIA International Code of Ethics on Consulting Services remains in force. Member Sections of the UIA are encouraged to introduce into their own codes of ethics and conduct the recommended Accord Guidelines and a requirement that their members abide by the codes of ethics and conduct in force in the countries and jurisdictions in which they provide professional services, so long as they are not prohibited by international law or the laws of the architect's own country.

Continuing Professional Development

Definition:

Continuing Professional Development is a lifelong learning process that maintains, enhances, or increases the knowledge and continuing ability of architects.

Background:
More and more professional bodies and regulatory authorities require their members to devote time (typically at least 35 hours per year) to maintaining existing skills, broadening knowledge, and exploring new areas. This is increasingly important to keep abreast with new technologies, methods of practice, and changing social and ecological conditions. Continuing professional development may be required by professional organizations for renewal and continuation of membership.

Policy:

That UIA urge its member sections to establish regimes of continuing professional development as a duty of membership, in the public interest. Architects must be sure they are capable of providing the services they offer, and codes of conduct must oblige architects to maintain a known standard in a variety of areas described under the "Fundamental Requirements of an Architect" and in future variations thereof. In the meantime, the UIA must monitor the developments in continuing professional development for registration renewal, recommend guidelines among all nations to facilitate reciprocity and continue to develop policy on this subject.

Scope of Practice

Definition:

This is the provision of design and management services in connection with land-use planning, urban design, and building projects.

Background:

As society has evolved, the creation of the urban and built environment has become more complex. Architects have to deal with an increasingly wide range of urban, aesthetic, technical, and legal considerations. A coordinated approach to building design has proved to

be necessary to ensure that legal, technical, and practical requirements are met and that society's needs and demands are satisfied.

Policy:

That the UIA encourage and promote the continuing extension of the boundaries of architectural practice, limited only by the provisions of codes of ethics and conduct, and strive to ensure the corresponding extension of the knowledge and skills necessary to deal with any extension of boundaries.

Form of Practice

Definition:

The legal entity through which the architect provides architectural services.

Background:

Traditionally, architects have practiced as individuals, or in partnerships or in employment within public or private institutions. More recently, the demands of practice have led to various forms of association, for example: limited and unlimited liability companies, cooperative practices, university-based project offices, community architecture, although not all are allowed in all countries. These forms of association may also include members of other disciplines.

Policy:

That architects should be allowed to practice in any form legally acceptable in the country in which the service is offered, but always subject to prevailing ethical and conduct requirements. The UIA, as it deems necessary, will develop and modify its policies and standards to take account of alternative forms of practice and varied local conditions where

these alternatives are thought to extend the positive and creative role of the architectural profession in the interests of society.

Practice in a Host Nation

Definition:

Practice in a host nation occurs when an individual architect or corporate entity of architects either seeks a commission or has been commissioned to design a project or offer a service in a country other than his/her/its own.

Background:

There is an interest in increasing the responsible mobility of architects and their ability to provide services in foreign jurisdictions. There is also a need to promote the awareness of local environmental, social, and cultural factors and ethical and legal standards.

Policy:

Architects providing architectural services on a project in a country in which they are not registered shall collaborate with a local architect to ensure that proper and effective understanding is given to legal, environmental, social, cultural, and heritage factors. The conditions of the association should be determined by the parties alone in accordance with UIA ethical standards and local statutes and laws.

Intellectual Property and Copyright

Definition:

Intellectual property encompasses the three legal areas of patent, copyright, and trademark. It refers to the right (sometimes guaranteed under the law of some nation states) of designers, inventors, authors, and producers, to their ideas, designs, inventions, works of authorship, and the identification of sources of products and services.

Background:

While many countries have some legal protection covering the architect's design, that protection is often inadequate. It is not unusual for the architect to discuss ideas and concepts with a prospective client, subsequently not be hired, and later find that the client has used the architect's ideas with no recompense. The intellectual property of architects is, to some extent, protected by international regulations. In the context of the GATS, this is the agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights, including trade in counterfeit goods (TRIPS). The World Copyright Convention of September 16, 1955 is also of international significance. In Europe, the Revised Berne Agreement of 1886 is binding in most states.

Policy:

That the national law of a UIA member section should entitle an architect to practice his/her profession without detriment to his/her authority and responsibility, and to retain ownership of the intellectual property and copyright of his/her work.

Governance of the Profession

Definition:

Professions are generally controlled by a governing body that sets standards (e.g. of education, ethical rules, and professional standards to be observed). The rules and standards are designed for the benefit of the public and not the private advantage of the members. In some countries, certain types of work are reserved to the profession by statute, not in order to favor members but because such work should be carried out only by persons with requisite education, training, standards and discipline, for the protection of the public. Institutes have been established for the advancement of architecture, promotion of knowledge and--by ensuring that their members perform to a known standard--protection of the public interest.

Background:

Depending on whether a country has protection of title or function, (or both, or neither), the role and responsibilities of professional institutes varies considerably. In some countries, the statutory bodies also represent the profession; in others, these functions are separate.

It is customary for members of professional institutes to be expected to maintain a known standard. This is achieved by adhering to codes of conduct promulgated by the professional institutes, and fulfilling other requirements of membership, e.g. continuing professional development.

Policy

In countries where professional bodies do not exist, the UIA should encourage members of the architectural profession to form or lobby for the creation of such bodies in the public interest.

Whether the desired purpose is to regulate title, regulate function or simply to promote the interests of architects, professional bodies should seek to ensure that their members adhere to the UIA international standards, the requirements of the UNESCO-UIA Charter for Archtiectural Education and the UIA International Code of Ethics and Conduct; keep up to date their knowledge and skills as required by the list of “Fundamental Requirements” (both current and as they evolve in the future); and generally contribute to the development of architectural culture and knowledge as well as the society they serve.

Appendix A

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION (Number 17) OF THE UIA ACCORD ON RECOMMENDED INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON PROFESSIONALISM IN ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

Adopted by the XXI UIA Assembly
Beijing, China, July 28, 1999

The Assembly unanimously resolved that it adopts the Second Edition of the UIA Accord on Recommended International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice as an advisory document intended to be used by member sections in setting and reviewing their own standards. The Accord and Guidelines will also make it easier for UIA member sections to negotiate mutual recognition agreements.

The Assembly asks that the Accord be transmitted to all UIA member sections with the request for their cooperation and participation in the further development of this policy framework for presentation at the XXII UIA Assembly (Berlin 2002).

The Assembly recognizes the mandate of Council to adopt Accord Policy Guideline documents and commend them to the UIA member sections.

The Assembly recognizes that there are differences in the cultures, practices and conditions in different member sections and encourages the member sections to use the documents as advisory documents intended to be adapted to local conditions.

The Assembly acknowledges that the sovereignty of each UIA member section must be respected in negotiations of mutual recognition agreements and notices that the guidelines are intended to allow flexibility for principles of equivalency and reciprocity and are structured to allow for the addition of requirements reflecting local conditions of a UIA member section.

The Assembly authorizes the UIA President and Secretary General to submit the Accord to the World Trade Organization, to other interested institutions and organizations as the basis for mutual recognition negotiations and to the Government of a country on the specific request of the UIA member section of the country in question.

The Assembly requests that the Professional Practice Commission analyze all the comments expressed during the General Assembly during its meeting in Prague (October 1999) in order to check on whether or not it is opportune to integrate them in the documents approved by the Beijing Assembly.

The Assembly authorizes the UIA Council to develop a policy to communicate the Accord and Guideline documents to interested parties.

The Assembly recommends to UIA member sections that following the use of these Standards, they inform the Commission Secretariat of their experience, in order that it can be taken into account for the improvement and evolution of these basic documents.