



ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION BOARD

STATEMENT BY THE ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION BOARD (ARB) ON THE OCCASION TO MARK WORLD ARCHITECTURE DAY - 3 OCTOBER 2022

The theme for **World Architecture Day** this year is **Architecture for Wellbeing**. It calls on stakeholders including architects, developers, governments, community leaders and those responsible for disseminating public information to produce and facilitate the creation of a built environment that enables wellbeing, good health and security for humanity. Architecture for well-being goes beyond design of health care facilities. It includes improving the quality of the architectural spaces in which we live and work and the general built environment of the communities we live in. From designing an ambient indoor space through lighting and ventilation to creating public spaces that are universally walkable, it is clear that **Architecture for Wellbeing** shall not be a creation of architects only.

Far more than just an indoor space, a building has the power to enhance or hinder our mental wellbeing. Whether we realise it or not, we react to and are changed by our environment. A well-lit and airy building that best utilises its space can boost the occupants' spirits and energy. The need to responsibly create built spaces that are good for our health has never been more articulate than now. The importance of well-designed buildings was illustrated recently during the Covid-19 pandemic. Similarly, at the community level we are increasingly seeing the importance of people being able to run or walk on safer routes or tracks. The importance of recreational open spaces parks and gardens in our communities cannot be over emphasized in **Architecture for Wellbeing**. While the adoption of sustainable and easy to maintain materials that are non-toxic is important to the sustainability of future generations, the adoption of such features and creation of green landscapes in the built environment is considered a benefit to the general wellbeing of people.

The art and procedure of coming up with health spaces in buildings and the built environment as distinguished from the skills associated with preparing plans for construction, is something architects spend the best part of their five-year education perfecting. But architects alone will not be able to create and achieve the built environment that is good for our health. This year, the International Union of Architects (UIA) calls on all stakeholders in its member countries to commit to sharing best practices and creating an enabling environment that helps people everywhere to enjoy better health outcomes by achieving harmony between their built, natural and social environments. Specifically, the UIA calls on "all architects, engineers, planners and developers to unite with the private, social and public sectors to find a holistic and harmonious balance between the built and natural environments".

On behalf of the architects in Uganda, we commit to work with all stakeholders in the built environment to offer designs that are good for the wellbeing of Ugandans because we know that it makes our communities healthier and safer. We reaffirm our promise to contributing to the well-being of all humans through cooperation with the central government, local governments and fellow professionals in the built environment to ensure that together we rise to this task.

Robert Kiggundu
Chairman
Architects Registration Board.
