

## Annex X – Sustainability

**Requirements** This Annex is an integral part of the Regulations and contains contractual requirements to the Expo Organizer.

Exhibition organizer is required to start planning a sustainability strategy immediately after the approval of the Expo.

Delivery of a sustainable World Horticultural Expo is a shared responsibility requiring close coordination and collaboration within the organising body, and with a variety of delivery partners, suppliers, public authorities and external organisations from the earliest stages of the application process onward through to the legacy phase.

This Annex details key success factors for the development of a Sustainability strategy as well as expected ways to implement it.

**Purpose** Our vision for World Horticultural Expos and International Horticultural Expos is to ensure they become recognized as the world’s most sustainable major events.

AIPH regulations set some mandatory requirements to allow to:

- Support Expo organisers in the development of comprehensive sustainability strategy and legacy plans and their implementation plans covering construction, operational delivery and legacy transition
- Build the Expo organisers’ capacity to establish effective governance arrangements ensuring that sustainability and legacy objectives are fully integrated into decision-making and risk management processes
- Help Expo organizers stay aligned with the best practices for quality Expo organization and transmit those to future Expo organizers
- Efficiently measure, monitor and evaluate sustainability performance of Expos to ensure continual improvement

**Contents** This Annex contains guidance on:

1. Sustainability strategy and legacy plan
2. Sustainability implementation plans
3. Sustainability education, communications and engagement
4. Sustainability reporting
5. Management system

## 1. Sustainability strategy

The Expo Organisers shall develop in coordination with the AIPH and Host Country Authorities, a sustainability strategy to identify specific sustainability objectives that will be embedded across the Expo project. The strategy should also include a section on Legacy planning to explain how these objectives will serve the Host City/Region/Country in the future. The strategy shall take into account the views of all relevant stakeholder groups and should be viewed as a detailed development and refinement of the commitments and plans set out during the application phase.

Sustainability strategy shall include policies on:

- Environment
- Labour
- Human rights, (this policy must align with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
- Anti-corruption
- Diversity
- Accessibility
- Ethical practices

The strategic objectives shall be framed according to the five priority themes of the AIPH Sustainability Policy:

- Climate change
- Biodiversity conservation
- Sustainable sourcing and resource management
- Equity and inclusion
- Sustainability education and awareness raising

For each objective there shall be corresponding targets and key performance indicators.

The strategy shall also outline approaches to be taken in the following areas:

- Governance
  - Identified roles and responsibilities for the delivery of the strategy
  - Transparent mechanisms to resolve any potential issues in the implementation of the strategy and supporting plans
  - Coordination of communication responses to issues
- Innovation to demonstrate the most sustainable, ethical, and advanced practices in ornamental plant production
- Education, communications and engagement on sustainability
- Knowledge sharing and reporting on achievements and lessons learned

With regard to legacy, the strategy shall identify the overall vision for legacy, priorities, key objectives, ownership, responsible bodies and timescales.

## 2. Sustainability implementation plans

The Expo Organisers shall establish in coordination with Host Country Authorities, specific sustainability implementation plans to set out a clear programme of actions, along with resource needs, issues and risks, and a system for tracking, evaluating and reporting progress.

The sustainability implementation plans will provide the detailed elements for delivering the objectives defined in the Sustainability Strategy. The sustainability implementation plans shall be submitted to the AIPH for review and approval.

The implementation plans shall cover the three principal stages of the Expo lifecycle:

- Construction
  - Permanent infrastructure
  - Temporary structures, signage and décor
  - Landscaping and ecological management
- Event operations
  - Transport and mobility (including accessibility)
  - Energy and water management
  - Catering
  - Waste management
  - Retail
  - Ceremonies, shows and promotions
- Dismantlement and legacy transition
  - Reuse and repurposing of materials, structures and other assets
  - Landscape restoration
  - Reporting

### **3. Sustainability education, communications and engagement**

A World/International Horticultural Expo has the potential to engage, inform and inspire large numbers of people across all ages and cultures. This is a vital opportunity for the Expo city/country, and it is important to have coherent plans to maximise this potential.

Specific plans will be necessary to define objectives, target audiences, methods, resources and timelines. These shall be submitted to the AIPH for review and approval.

- Sustainability Education Plan
- Sustainability Communications and Engagement Plan

Both plans should emphasise the importance and value of the event experience in reinforcing learning and awareness about sustainability.

Version 1 of each plan to be completed two years before opening of the Expo; updated final version to be completed six months before opening of the Expo.

## 4. Sustainability reporting

A critical element of the legacy of an Expo is the transfer of knowledge, best practices, case studies and lessons learned. It is important this is done in a spirit of sharing the experience of delivering an Expo, making clear the challenges and issues that were faced and how they were handled, as well as a record of achievements. The ability to explain things that went wrong or could have been done better is fundamental to true learning and advancing understanding of major event management.

There should be a series of publicly available sustainability reports to cover the construction and preparation phases and finally reporting on the total sustainability programme (i.e. including event operations and initial legacy transition works).

- Pre-event sustainability report, focusing on construction and preparation phase – to be issued 6 months prior to the opening of the Expo
- Post-event sustainability report, which is part of Expo Final Report and Valuation Questionnaire 1 – within 3 months of the closing of the Expo
- Sustainability and legacy report (including case studies), which is part of Expo Valuation Questionnaire 2 – within 3 years of the closing of the Expo

Legacy reports at longer intervals after the Expo would be beneficial so that long-term benefits and trends can be reported.

## 5. Management system

The Expo Organisers shall establish a management system in accordance with ISO 20121:2012 Event Sustainability Management Systems with Guidance for Use. This internationally recognised standard is the most effective way to ensure that the above requirements are properly integrated into the delivery of the Expo. A well-conceived management system is a valuable tool to enable the Expo Organisers to keep track of their sustainability commitments and to build effective processes into their day-to-day operations.

The management system should cover the key activities of the organising body that are material to delivering a truly sustainable World/International Horticultural Expo.

The management system may be put forward for third party certification to ISO 20121.