

EDITORIAL

Almost six months have passed since the publication of our last issue in June 2019, when nothing presaged the scenario we are living in the country today. A convulsed Chile, which experiences an unprecedented social explosion, result of a multidimensional and historical crisis originated mainly in an abysmal social, economic and environmental inequality, fundamental pillars of the principles of sustainability.

Chilean society demands profound changes in the way we have been developing as a country. In that context and as result of visible demands and social mobilizations, the Chilean political class has signed an Agreement for Social Peace and New Constitution promoting for the month of April 2020 a plebiscite, which would allow democratically decide if Chile wants or not a new constitution. This will undoubtedly point to a historical milestone: the possibility of rethinking our Constitution, an unthinkable issue six months ago and which I relive here as one of the most important events of the last 30 years since the return to democracy.

This scenario, which brings with it high expectations of making substantial progress on profound sustainability issues, makes it necessary to refer to the poor results of the long-awaited COP25; the most important summit of climate action organized and chaired on this occasion by Chile, which beyond the scopes known through media, failed to reach relevant agreements on the matter and evidenced the lack of greater ambition in mitigation, adaptation and financing to combat imminent climate crisis that affects us globally. Although it is true that certain agreements were reached - better said, more demanding voluntary declarations - for an important part of the scientific, academic and civil community, the results of the expected summit constitute a frank setback, which puts us at a level of progress comparable to what was previously contained in the Paris Agreement of 2015. Accordingly, no concrete short-term actions are envisioned for the 1.5°C reduction of global temperature increase, a framework in which one of the most anticipated and controversial actions was the approval of regulations on the markets of coal, as well as tacit mechanisms for financing losses and

damages linked to the climate crisis. In short, we will have to wait for the proposals and results of the year 2020 in Glasgow, meeting for which already over 80 countries, including Germany, France, Spain and the UK, have pledged to present "harder" plans, but in which the expected signals from China, US, India and Russia continue to be absent, nations that together contribute more than 55% of GHG emissions.

Faced with this challenging local and global panorama, we invite you not to fall into perhaps justified pessimism but, on the contrary, to persist in the contribution from our paths to the construction of a more equitable society in all dimensions, where the habitat and built environment must be harmoniously combined.

I close this editorial presenting a large and varied repertoire of eight articles by Latin American authors from Chile, Spain, Colombia and Argentina, which were rigorously selected and represent solid contributions to knowledge for sustainable development.

Finally, I express, as usual, my sincere gratitude to all the authors and reviewers who have trusted HS and also to the permanent commitment of the editorial team: Dr. Olga Ostria in her role as Corrector of Style, Eng. Jocelyn Vidal as Editorial Producer, Eng. Karina Leiva in Computer Support and Architect Ignacio Sáez in Diagramming.

Claudia Muñoz Sanguinetti
PhD en Arquitectura y Urbanismo
Profesora Asociada Dpto. Ciencias de la construcción
Universidad del Bío-Bío, Concepción, Chile
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4859-478X>
clmunoz@ubiobio.cl

