

EDITORIAL

MOVING TOWARDS A FAIR SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION.

At a time when the planet is showing evident signs of the overload of our ecological footprint when the demand and services from nature far exceed its biocapacity, it is urgent to generate a turning point, since there is enough scientific evidence to confirm that we are approaching the dangerous limit of the point of no return.

The environmental and social consequences of a productive model of linear and extractivist development, which began in the mid-18th century and are still in force, continue to generate deep ecological and social gaps at a global level. With our eyes set on reducing these gaps, a valuable opportunity is opening up in Chile today to the extent that, for the first time, the current government administration, in particular the Ministry of the Environment, has declared a commitment in our country to move towards a fair socio-ecological transition. In line with this, two important steps have been given. One of them is the *signing of the Escazú Agreement*, which will be ratified within the legal deadlines and will provide the framework for reducing environmental conflict and internationally reaffirming the country's commitment to environmental issues, among other relevant aspects. The second relevant step concerns the *closing of the Ventanas Foundry* in Quinteros – Puchuncaví, an environmental sacrifice area that has generated a high pollution load for too long and, therefore, led to significant adverse effects on people's health and the environment. Without a doubt, it is a complex decision, in terms of the economic and labor scope, but it is very necessary and was a pending situation. Thus, these valuable signs contribute to lighting a path to move towards that *fair ecological transition*, to which professionals, academia, and society in general, are called upon to contribute from our respective paths.

As for the regulatory instruments needed to face the challenges of the country's climate crisis, there is also positive news for Chile, since, in June, the *Framework Law on Climate Change* (Law No. 21,455) was passed. This establishes a legal framework to address the challenges presented by climate change, the goal of which is for the country to become carbon neutral and climate resilient by 2050 at the latest. The law defines a roadmap for the next three decades, expecting to structurally modify how the State works to achieve the goals of decarbonization and reduction of social gaps. It is, by all accounts, good news for a country with high levels of degradation, environmental liabilities, and still high levels of poverty.

There are many environmental, economic, and social challenges still to be solved. That is why a state policy that protects this fair balance and the long-awaited socio-ecological transition is so necessary.

The call is to rethink, to raise our level of awareness regarding the role that we play in this society and this planet, in its current state, to understand our responsibility in it. And, from our areas, to generate a paradigm shift in the way of planning the territory and the built environment, to timely see and integrate the basic criteria of sustainable building, of all environmental and social aspects.

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