

Nantes, 19 February 2025

Subject: Letter of endorsement for Lorenzo Imbesi for second term as President of Cumulus Association

Dear Cumulus community,

As the second President of Cumulus Association, I have had the privilege of observing our network's evolution through different leadership styles and changing times. It is from this historical perspective that I write to strongly endorse Lorenzo Imbesi for a second term as Cumulus President.

When Lorenzo first assumed the presidency, Cumulus faced unprecedented challenges: a post-pandemic world, the need for organizational independence, and increasing global tensions. His response to these challenges has been remarkable. He has not only preserved our association's core values but has strengthened them, guided by a vision that combines respect for our heritage with courage to embrace necessary change.

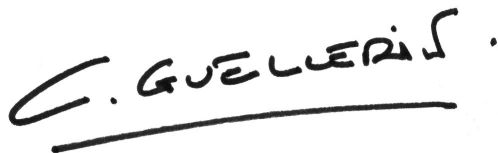
What particularly impresses me is how Lorenzo has maintained the delicate balance between institutional stability and innovative growth. The successful transition to an independent association - a process I know from experience requires both diplomatic skill and strategic vision - has been achieved while expanding our membership to nearly 400 institutions across 71 countries. This is no small feat.

His leadership style reminds me of what we dreamed Cumulus could become in its early days: a truly global platform where design education transcends borders and cultures. Through initiatives like the Regional Seminars, PhD Network, and Talent Camp, he has created concrete mechanisms for realizing these aspirations. His attention to emerging design communities, particularly in the Global South, demonstrates an understanding that genuine internationalization requires both vision and practical support.

Perhaps most significantly, Lorenzo has strengthened Cumulus's role as a voice for peace and dialogue in design education. In times of increasing global tensions, his emphasis on bringing together diverse perspectives while respecting local contexts echoes the founding principles that guided Cumulus's early development.

Having led this association myself, I understand intimately the challenges of balancing continuity with necessary evolution. Lorenzo has shown he possesses this rare ability, and I am confident that a second term under his leadership will further strengthen Cumulus's position as the preeminent global network for design education.

Christian Guellerin



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