

## **Goals and Values**

- (a) The aim of the Branch is to stimulate regional awareness, and to assess and advise on regional issues and policies affecting the public and private sectors and local communities.
- (b) The Branch seeks to facilitate contact and exchange of ideas between practitioners and researchers in the field of regional development and policy.
- (c) The Branch recognises the need for an ongoing and dynamic process of spatial planning in order to promote an integrated approach to urban and rural, regional and local development.
- (d) The Branch supports regional policies that seek to achieve balanced regional development leading to innovative approaches to the optimum utilisation of the social and natural resource potential of each region, and a reduction in the disparities within and between regions.
- (e) The Branch advocates strategies for regional development that are complementary to policies for sustainable development, with full regard to quality of life, social cohesion, and conservation of the environment and the natural heritage.
- (f) The Branch supports proposals for the effective implementation of regional development strategies through participative governance structures organised at local, regional and national levels that can facilitate integration of multi-annual programmes.