

Memorandum of Understanding Strategic Partnership Agreement

BETWEEN

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU),
Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA),
Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP),
Commonwealth Engineers Council (CEC),
Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF),

PREAMBLE

The PARTNERS, recognising the interconnectedness of our missions and shared commitment to sustainable cities and human settlements in the Commonwealth, hereby agree to formalise our strategic partnership to collaboratively pursue advancing the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Initiative (CSCI).

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a framework for the PARTNERS to work together in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner to achieve our shared goals and objectives related to sustainable cities and human settlements in the Commonwealth including the following:

1. Leverage the power of the Commonwealth to confront diverse challenges and advance opportunities in the face of climate change and rapid urbanisation.
2. Help build capacity and capability at scale, especially in the areas of policy and legislation, urban planning and design, governance and financial mechanisms.
3. Work in a collaborative, interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral, and intergenerational manner at all levels to share knowledge and best practice more effectively.
4. Increase the pipeline of risk-managed bankable projects with improved financing prospects.

SCOPE OF COLLABORATION

The PARTNERS agree to collaborate on the following initiatives as part of the CSCI:

1. **Call to Action** – Build on the Call to Action on Sustainable Urbanisation across the Commonwealth and the Declaration on Sustainable Urbanisation¹ in Commonwealth policymaking, through a Commonwealth dialogue, to define and implement new ways of working and a commitment by Member States to Practical Action.
2. **Develop a Commonwealth Dialogue** – Engage a diverse audience including Youth, to integrate Sustainable Urbanisation into existing processes, strengthen internal and external focus and action on Sustainable Urbanisation and Climate, ensure it is on the agenda of key ministerial meetings, and bring the work of the Commonwealth together more strategically.
3. **Promote Research, Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Development** – Coordinate Commonwealth research on Sustainable Urbanisation and climate action, provide a platform for advocacy and dissemination, deliver capacity development by drawing on Commonwealth expertise and good practice and engaging Commonwealth Universities to bring together policymakers, practitioners, and academia.
4. **Support and Empower Cities and Member States to Implement the Call to Action** – Develop a program of practical action which is demand-led and locally driven, scalable and replicable, rigorous and evidence-based, blending technology with nature-based and community-led solutions built around city typologies and key thematic areas using the Commonwealth network, including the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network (CSCN), the Commonwealth Youth for Sustainable Urbanisation (CYSU) network, UN-Habitat and other partners as focal points and strategic levers for exchange and good practice.

¹ Adopted by Heads of Government at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, Rwanda (June 2022)

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RESPONSIBILITIES

The PARTNERS agree to assume the following responsibilities:

1. Appoint a representative to serve as the main point of contact and coordinate the activities under this Memorandum of Understanding.
2. Attend regular meetings as determined by the PARTNERS and complete assigned tasks.
3. Share information and resources in a timely manner, to facilitate the effective implementation of initiatives.
4. Develop and implement joint projects and activities to achieve shared goals and objectives.
5. Provide resources (financial, human, in-kind) and pursue resources to support partnership goals and objectives.
6. Attend an annual review on the progress of our partnership, confirm commitments to achieving our Theory of Change, and plan future initiatives and activities.

TERM

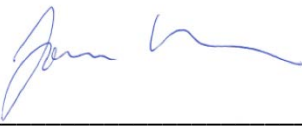
This Memorandum of Understanding shall come into effect on the 03 March 2023 and shall remain in effect until terminated by any of the PARTNERS upon giving six months' written notice of the other PARTNERS.

AMENDMENTS

The Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual agreement of the PARTNERS.

SIGNATORIES

The PARTNERS hereby affix our signatures to this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed by: 


Joanna Newman

The Association of Commonwealth Universities, Secretary General

Signed by: 

Peter Oborn, President

Commonwealth Association of Architects, President

Signed by: 

Eleanor Mohammed

Commonwealth Association of Planners, President

Signed by: 

Dawn Bonfield MBE, President

Commonwealth Engineers Council, President

Signed by: 

Rev Mpho MW Moruakgomo

Commonwealth Local Government Forum, President