

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**THE UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
(UN-HABITAT)**

and

**THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
(UNESCO)**

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
UN-HABITAT and UNESCO

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, established by the General Assembly of the United Nations by its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and transformed into the *United Nations Human Settlements Programme* (hereinafter referred to as 'UN-HABITAT') by its resolution 56/206 of 1 January 2002, within the general framework established by the Charter of the United Nations and the recommendations of the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly (cf. *Report of the second Committee at its Fifty-seventh session, Agenda item 95 "Implementation of the outcome of HABITAT II and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly-A/57/540)* and the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization* (hereinafter referred to as 'UNESCO') created on 16 November 1945,

1. *Dedicated* to the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms, justice and the rule of law, as mandated by the United Nations General Assembly and defined in UNESCO's Constitution,
2. *Bearing in mind* UNESCO's Strategy on Human Rights as well as the promotion of socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing shelter for all, as expressed in UN-HABITAT's mandate by the United Nations General Assembly,
3. *Recognizing* cities and towns as centres of civilization, generating economic development and social, cultural, spiritual and scientific advancement as well as places to preserve human settlement's diversity so as to promote solidarity amongst all our people (Article 2 of Istanbul UN Declaration, June 1996),
4. *Recalling* Goal 7, Target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals (A/56/326, September 2001) to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, through reducing poverty and creating more socially and environmentally sustainable cities and settlements through the full, active democratic participation of all human beings,
5. *Committed* to pursuing the Habitat Agenda objectives of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, *inter alia*, through the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance,
6. *Sharing* a concern for the conservation, rehabilitation and maintenance of buildings, monuments, open spaces, landscapes and settlement patterns of historical, cultural, architectural, natural, religious and spiritual value, whilst recognizing that the physical and social aspects of the environment are linked, with reference to UNESCO conventions in tangible and intangible heritage (1972 and 2003, respectively), the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001) and the Habitat Agenda (1996),
7. *Recalling that* UNESCO is the lead agency for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), which aims to integrate the values inherent to sustainable development into all aspects of learning, to enhance the essential role of all forms of education in the promotion of knowledge and the empowerment of urban populations, to encourage changes in behavior that allow for a more sustainable, just society for all, and a more sustainable urban environment for future generations,
8. *Desirous* to support dialogue among civilizations, culture, peoples and religions in line with the UN Global Agenda for the Dialogue among Civilizations and encouraging, through education and the media, knowledge of the positive value of cultural diversity in order to achieve mutual understanding, solidarity and




cooperation, in accordance with resolution 57/249 on "Culture and development" adopted by the UN general Assembly on 20 February 2003,

9. **Advocating** a strong link between research and policy practice through partnerships between governments, civil society, the private sector and academia,
10. **Mindful of** the specific needs and challenges of women, children and youth, the elderly, poor or low-income groups, the homeless, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, displaced persons, immigrant workers and refugees, and particularly vulnerable groups,
11. **Reaffirming** their commitment within the framework of their respective mandates, resources, approved programmes and functions, to endeavor collectively to contribute to peace and human development in an era of globalization and to improve the living conditions of all human beings, in particular with respect to the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals and other international targets.

Do hereby agree to the following:

1. UN-HABITAT and UNESCO commit to work in close cooperation with each other and to consult each other regularly on matters of common interest, such as:
 - a) Developing research agendas and common approaches on the role of cities in fostering creativity and culture and the reduction of urban poverty (with respect to UN agencies' follow-up to the Istanbul Declaration on Human settlements and the Millennium Development Goals);
 - b) Elaborating new instruments and strategies in the field of urban development and social and environmental sustainability, bearing in mind the internationally acknowledged right to adequate housing, within the framework of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the collaboration between UN-HABITAT and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
 - c) Sharing methodologies and "best practices" so as to develop and implement participative and inclusive socially sustainable urban development practices and urban public policies;
 - d) Forming joint campaigns with a view to establishing international standards for human settlements and living conditions;
 - e) Improving human security by better management of the urban environment and socio-cultural transformations;
 - f) Enhancing scientific, technical and human capacities to participate in a globalizing habitat and the emerging knowledge societies;
 - g) Exchanging information and joint actions in the framework of the improvement of human habitats and,
 - h) Any other matter of mutual interest.
2. Within the framework of the inter-agency coordination, UN-HABITAT and UNESCO will cooperate in planning and implementing their activities, including, *inter alia*:
 - a) Research on themes of common interest, and wide dissemination of their results ;



b) Organization of an annual inter-agency meeting under the leadership of UN-HABITAT as the UN focal point for local authorities;

c) Organization, within the budget availabilities, of regional and sub-regional consultations for the preparation of programmes, curricula and educational and technical materials on human settlements and the management and elaboration of urban public policies, urban development and environmental and social sustainability;

d) Preparation of manuals for the improvement of the human environment and living conditions in cities and the Education for Sustainable Urban Development campaign;

e) Development of research, training and communication and information programmes on urban development, human settlements and the management and elaboration of urban public policies and,

f) Providing advisory services and technical assistance, including the exchange of information on urban development, management and human settlements policies and practices.

3. UN-HABITAT and UNESCO will undertake to promote the overall aim of the Istanbul Declaration (1996) and the United Nations Millennium Declaration (*A/RES/55/2*, 2000), in particular as they contribute to peace and sustainable urban development in an era of globalization.

4. A list of matters of common interest identified during a meeting between UN-HABITAT and UNESCO held in Paris on 28 April 2004. The list is attached to this Memorandum of Understanding in Annex I. UN-HABITAT and UNESCO may agree on further areas of collaboration within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding, in addition to the topics listed in Annex I. The detailed responsibilities of both Parties with respect to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the projects and activities that may be jointly carried out shall be framed in a project document and formalized in an exchange of letters under the umbrella of this Memorandum. UN-HABITAT and UNESCO shall maintain regular and close consultations to monitor and review the progress of activities as outlined in this Memorandum and for each joint project or activity that may be agreed upon.

5. Representatives of UN-HABITAT and UNESCO shall be reciprocally invited to attend meetings organized by and/or under the auspices of the other. UN-HABITAT and UNESCO shall, wherever possible and as appropriate, share all relevant information and documents, including research, reports and any other information related to the activities, outputs and impact of joint projects or any area of collaboration, as well as invite each other to attend related meetings and events. UN-HABITAT and UNESCO shall undertake to work together towards the achievement of the objectives of this collaboration in good faith and in the spirit of friendly cooperation, as set out in this Memorandum.

6. UN-HABITAT and UNESCO shall identify "Focal Points" and convene a working group which will meet yearly in order to evaluate the implementation of their cooperation and elaborate protocols specifying concrete projects to be implemented jointly. UN-HABITAT and UNESCO shall, wherever possible and as appropriate, undertake joint missions with respect to any common project or activity, or in relation to any area of collaboration. A first set of potential common projects is attached to the present document relating to the first experimental phase, 2006-2007. UN-HABITAT and UNESCO welcome evaluation of the outputs and impact of any joint project or activity.

7. It is understood that the cooperation under this Memorandum shall be carried out on a non-exclusive basis and shall take into account the mandates and decisions of the respective Governing Bodies and the rules and operating conditions of each Party. The

United Nations Regulations and Rules, Policies and Practice shall be applicable to UN-HABITAT and UNESCO in any joint project or activity in any respect.

8. Arrangements set forth in this Memorandum may be modified upon mutual agreement of the Parties to be reflected in writing by duly authorized representatives of UN-HABITAT and UNESCO.

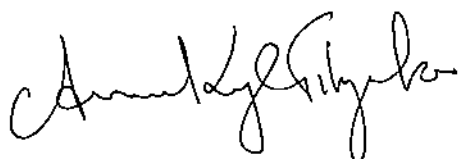
9. This Memorandum of Understanding replaces and supersedes all previous agreements between the parties. It shall be subject to revision by mutual agreement.

10. The present Memorandum of Understanding shall come into force upon signature by both parties.

Signed on 18 March 2005 in Paris (original in English).

For the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme

Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka



Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director of UN-HABITAT

The United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

Koïchiro Matsuura



Director-General of UNESCO

Memorandum of Understanding: UNESCO / UN-HABITAT

ANNEX I

List of matters of common interest, agreed upon 28 April 2004

1- EDUCATION/TRAINING/CAPACITY BUILDING

- UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) : in the framework of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and of the DESD International Implementation Scheme, collaboration and joint work on the development of learning tools/materials and transfer of methodologies - in particular on:
 - "Guidelines/How to" materials around concrete ESD experiences
 - "Life skills" and citizenship education
 - "Networking/Capacity Building" around ESD issues and projects in urban areas, finding ways to create information/experience exchange channels between various actors
- Capacity building for city professionals in order to promote urban governance and participatory processes in urban planning and management

2- NATURAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Built environment as cultural heritage: joint exploration of field activities, tools and training packages to promote participatory approaches to enhance the social and economic dimensions of cultural heritage, with the aim of contributing to urban poverty reduction
- Environment topics: water, disasters, urban ecology, biodiversity

3- RESEARCH AND POLICY ON URBANIZATION AND CITIES

- Best practices
- Gender and the environment
- International observatories on the concept of "The Right to the City"

4- CULTURE

- World Heritage Cities: link with Urban Governance Indicators
- Urban culture, including the UNESCO *Cities for Peace* network, the *Culture in the neighborhood* network.

