



## LETTER OF INTENT

15 May 2023

We, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (“UN-Habitat”), originally established as the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) by resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations 32/162 of 19 December 1977, and thereafter transformed into a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly of the United Nations by its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, with Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. UN-Habitat is the coordinating agency within the United Nations System for human settlement activities and, in collaboration with governments, is responsible for promoting and consolidating collaboration with all partners, including local authorities, private and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, Goal 11 of “*Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*”, as well as the task manager of the human settlements chapter of Agenda 21 and focal point for the monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the New Urban Agenda adopted during the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016. UN-Habitat is represented herein by Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-Habitat; and

the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (hereinafter referred to as “CLA”), is an association of legal professionals committed to maintaining and promoting the rule of law across the Commonwealth, including strengthening professional links, maintaining the honour and integrity of the profession, promoting uniformity in the standards of professional ethics and encouraging improved standards of education. CLA’s Climate Justice Committee has been established to develop and action responses to the climate crisis founded on human rights, justice and equality. CLA is represented herein by Ms. Brigid Watson, Secretary- General, Commonwealth Lawyers Association; and

the Commonwealth Association of Architects (hereinafter referred to as “CAA”) is an association of national institutes of architects from across the Commonwealth. Its objectives are the advancement of Architecture in the Commonwealth and the promotion and acquisition of knowledge of the various arts and sciences connected therewith, with the object of ensuring the maximum contribution by architects to the wellbeing of society. CAA is represented herein by Mr. Peter Oborn, President, Commonwealth Association of Architects; and

the Commonwealth Association of Planners (hereinafter referred to as “CAP”) brings together 30 national professional planning organizations representing over 40,000 professional planners. Members organizations operate at all levels of government and in the private sector, non-government organizations and community-based associations. Today the institution plays an increasingly significant role in promoting planning as fundamental for sustainable human settlements, mitigating the impacts of climate change



and building resilient communities. CAP is represented herein by Ms. Eleanor Mohammed, President, Commonwealth Association of Planners.

*Considering* that UN-Habitat, CLA, CAA and CAP (collectively referred to as the “Parties” and individually as the “Party”) have had several discussions on possible collaboration.

*Intend* to collaborate towards a joint research agenda, advocacy, capacity building and outreach events for cities, encompassing urban law, human rights and climate justice.

*Believe* that the intended collaboration will contribute to strengthening SDGs in cities and build capacities of national and local governments in promoting effective, climate smart and rights-based law, with a particular focus on addressing urban vulnerabilities and positively impacting resource-poor communities in least developing, low- and middle-income countries.

*Agree* to prepare an agreement and/ or legal instrument to further detail the activities to be undertaken by the Parties which shall include:

- (i) Developing a legal checklist for cities as a user-friendly diagnostic tool to build the capacities of lawmakers, planning authorities, government officials and organizations and
- (ii) Identifying areas for law reform for the achievement of sustainable and climate-focused SDGs in cities;
- (iii) Promoting, disseminating and advocating for existing UN-Habitat, CLA, CAA and CAP tools and data sources such as *UrbanLex* across other regions beyond Africa, including Caribbean, Pacific islands, and Southeast Asia (especially India and Pakistan), noting that the Commonwealth has a large number of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) members;
- (iv) Participating in joint research agenda on urban law, human rights and climate justice and piloting/testing existing and future normative toolkits and methodologies;
- (v) Participating in joint outreach events during international forums such as the World Urban Forum, UN High-Level Political Forum, UN-Habitat Assembly, the Commonwealth Law Conference, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Climate Change Conference of the Parties, Urban Law Days etc., by hosting side events;
- (vi) Participating in joint training events, seminars/webinars, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) events on a thematic urban law and climate justice topics to spread awareness, skills and knowledge of best practice legal methodologies;
- (vii) Collaborating with the Commonwealth Secretariat particularly regarding SIDS, and other UN bodies with a view to sharing knowledge and building capacity and coordinating activity.



**Recognise** that signing of this Letter of Intent is not binding and does not imply any legal or financial obligations or otherwise, by the Parties;

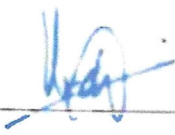
**Subject** to the respective policies and procedures of the Parties, with respect of the disclosure of information, the Parties may make this Letter of Intent publicity available. For the purpose of clarity, neither Party may use the names, marks, logos or other intellectual property of another Party without such Party's prior written approval.

**Nothing** in or relating to this Letter of Intent shall be construed as a waiver, implied or express of the Privileges and Immunities United Nations, including UN-Habitat.

**We**, UN-Habitat, CLA, CAA and CAP are confident that the intended collaboration between us will be fruitful and of mutual benefit for achieving our goal of strengthening SDGs in cities to build capacities of national and local governments in promoting effective, climate smart and rights-based law, with the aim of addressing urban vulnerabilities and positively impacting resource-poor communities.

For UN-Habitat:

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_


  
Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif  
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For CLA:

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Ms. Brigid Watson  
Secretary-General, Commonwealth Lawyers Association

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





For CAA:

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Peter Oborn", written over a horizontal line.

**Mr. Peter Oborn**  
President, Commonwealth Association of Architects

Place: Harare

Date: 07. JUNE 2023

For CAP:

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Eleanor Mohammed", written over a horizontal line.

**Ms. Eleanor Mohammed**  
President, Commonwealth Association of Planners

Place: Edinburgh, UK

Date: 7 June 2023

cc: Rafael Tuts, Director, Global Solutions Division,  
Erfan Ali, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive Director  
Shipra Narang Suri, Chief, Urban Practices Branch  
Remy Sietchiping, Chief, Policy, Legislation and Governance Section