

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
(Committee on Human Settlements)
and
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE
(ICA Housing)

Letter of Intent of Co-operation

In September 2004, the International Co-operative Alliance Housing Sector (ICA Housing) discussed the possibilities for closer co-operation with the UNECE Committee on Human Settlements. In May 2005 the Bureau of the UNECE Committee on Human Settlements considered a report of its Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network (HUMAN) on co-operation with the ICA Housing. At that meeting, there was a broad agreement that a closer working relationship between the UNECE (Committee on Human Settlements) and the International Co-operative Alliance (through ICA Housing) would be desirable for the both parties. It was noted that the two partners had specific roles and close co-operation between them could provide useful synergies and joint initiatives.

While the UNECE Committee on Human Settlements constitutes an intergovernmental forum for comparative studies, integrated policy formulation, analysis and sharing of experience on housing, spatial development, and land administration in the countries of the UNECE region, the International Co-operative Alliance's Housing Sector is a global non-governmental organization for promoting the development of co-operative housing in all countries through technical assistance, training, dissemination of related information, as an economic and social contribution to the problem of providing shelter.

The objective of this Letter of Intent is to strengthen the co-operation between the UNECE Committee on Human Settlements and the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA Housing) in the areas of common interest, in accordance with the Habitat Agenda, UN Millennium Development Goals and the UNECE Strategy for sustainable quality of life in human settlements in the 21st century.

1. UNECE Committee on Human Settlements and ICA Housing will:
 - (a) Assist governments (with particular focus on Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and South Eastern Europe to design and implement national housing policies and programmes, to evaluate and redirect them, if needed, so as to eliminate bottlenecks in the housing sector. The main focus will be on:
 - Co-operative and community-based housing development;
 - Housing finance;
 - Management of housing condominiums;
 - Enabling legal and institutional framework;
 - Private-public partnerships;
 - Municipal support for housing;
 - Responses to informal settlements.

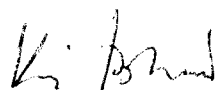
- (b) Promote programmes and activities to renovate the existing housing stock with the overall goal to support disadvantaged segments of the population;
- (c) Facilitate innovative tools to modernize the social housing policies.

2. The forms of co-operation will include:


- Joint organisation of conferences, seminars and workshops on issues of mutual interest (consultations, papers and selection of speakers and experts);
- Dissemination of good practice, based on the knowledge and expertise of each party;
- Participation of experts from ICA Housing in implementation of the housing sector country profiles programme of the UNECE Committee on Human Settlements, including follow up activities;
- Practical assistance of ICA in training and capacity building activities within the housing sector of the UNECE member countries;
- Annual exchange of calendars of important meetings and activities of both sides related to the above fields of co-operation with a view of mutual participation in these meetings whenever possible;
- Assistance, when required, in identifying international experts/consultants needed for implementation of programmes/projects;
- Consultations, if needed, during the process of formulating work programmes and/or projects.

Signed in Geneva, Switzerland this 8th day of December 2005:

For UNECE CHS:

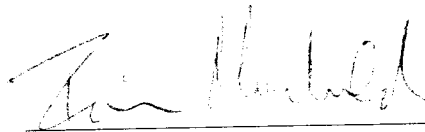


Kaj Bärlund
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UNECE Environment and Human
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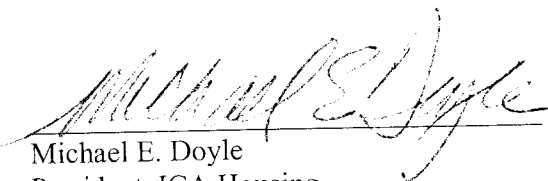


Christina von Schweinichen
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For the International Co-operative Alliance:



Iain Macdonald
Director General
International Co-operative Alliance



Michael E. Doyle
President, ICA Housing