

Memorandum of Understanding
between
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and
Association Columbia Global Centers | Europe, on behalf of the City Diplomacy
Lab

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and Columbia Global Centers | Europe (CGC|E), on behalf of the City Diplomacy Lab (CDL) (referred herein as the "Parties") have agreed to sign this Memorandum of Understanding ("Memorandum") as a statement of intent by the Parties to cooperate in the promotion of city diplomacy and sustainable housing by recognizing the CDL as a Centre of Excellence in France for the implementation of the Geneva United Nations Charter on Sustainable Housing.

I. Objective

1. The objective of this Memorandum is to establish a Centre of Excellence for the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing. For the purposes of this Memorandum, the 'Centre of Excellence' provides best practices, research, support, and/or training in the area of work around city diplomacy and sustainable urban development.
2. The Memorandum also provides a framework within which the Parties can develop and undertake collaborative activities and projects to promote the principles of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing through the Centre of Excellence.

II. Responsibilities of the Parties

3. In the framework of this agreement, the CDL at CGC|E will undertake activities such as:
 - (a) Development and production of print and digital materials on sustainable housing and city diplomacy, including brochures, websites, mobile applications and multimedia;
 - (b) Development of curriculums for training and capacity building on city diplomacy and sustainable urban development;
 - (c) Organization and hosting of international, national, and subnational meetings (symposiums, workshops, training programmes and seminars) to disseminate information about the Charter and UNECE;
 - (d) Promotion of the Charter at international, national, and subnational level meetings and through print and social media (i.e. preparation of articles in journals and newspapers, interviews on TV and radio and information dissemination through relevant newsletters etc.);
 - (e) Support to research on the potentials for the implementation of the Charter;
 - (f) Liaison and cooperation with international, national and local stakeholders working on related topics;
 - (g) Fundraising and preparation of project proposals, implementation of projects supporting the activities mentioned in (a) to (f) above;
 - (h) Development and implementation of pilot projects to support the implementation of the Charter (advisory services to support preparation of laws and regulations,

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etc.);

- (i) Participation in regular surveys organized by UNECE on the implementation of the Charter.

4. UNECE will:

- (a) Recognise the CDL as a Centre of Excellence for promoting the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing.
- (b) Facilitate the work of CDL and the exchange of information, knowledge, and experience within the Geneva UN Charter Centres for Sustainable Housing and Smart Sustainable Cities network as well as with relevant international and national organizations in the UNECE region, within existing resources;
- (c) Promote the goals and objectives of the Charter through CDL;
- (d) Cooperate on the topic of city diplomacy and sustainable urban development and support the activities of the CDL according to the priorities established by the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management;
- (e) Coordinate cooperation and exchange of experiences between the Centres of Excellence.

III. Protection of intellectual property rights

5. The Parties recognize the importance of protecting and respecting intellectual property rights. This Memorandum does not grant the right to use materials belonging to or created by either Party.
6. The intellectual property rights for materials or products developed and provided by UNECE shall rest entirely with UNECE as this is in accordance with United Nations copyright rules and regulations.

IV. Use of UNECE name and logo

7. Any use of the UNECE name and logo by the CGC|E and the CDL shall be subject to explicit written consent by UNECE.

V. Use of CGC|E and CDL name and logo

8. Any use of the CGC|E and CLD name and logo by UNECE shall be subject to explicit written consent by CGC|E and CLD.

VI. Limits to agreement

9. This Memorandum does not constitute an agreement by either Party to provide support for any specific project or activity. Any sharing of information between the Parties will be subject to their respective policies on the disclosure of information.
10. In no event shall this Agreement operate to create financial, administrative or legal obligations on the part of either Party, nor does it prevent the Parties from pursuing the objectives set forth in this Memorandum on their own or with other third parties.

VII. Disputes

11. The Parties commit themselves to settling by good faith negotiation any dispute or controversy arising out of the implementation and/or interpretation of the present Memorandum.

VIII. Privileges and Immunities

12. Nothing in this Memorandum is intended to be a waiver, expressly or implied, of the privileges and immunities of UNECE, including its subsidiary organs

IX. Planning of activities

13. The Parties may present their plans for specific activities to implement this Memorandum at the annual sessions of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management.

X. Key points of contact

14. The key points of contact for implementation of this Memorandum are listed below. The Parties may, by written notice to the other Party, designate additional or different persons as points of contact.

Focal Point for UNECE:

Ms. Gulnara Röll

Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations

8-14 avenue de la Paix

1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Email: Hana.Daodi@un.org

Focal Point for the City Diplomacy Lab, at Columbia Global Centers | Europe

Dr. Lorenzo Kihlgren Grandi

Director, City Diplomacy Lab

Columbia Global Centers | Paris

4, rue de Chevreuse

75006 Paris, France

+33 (0) 7 82 12 22 22

Email: lk2894@columbia.edu

XI. Timeframe and termination

15. This Memorandum will continue for three years from the date of the last signature with the possibility of further extension based on mutual written agreement of the Parties. Either Party may, at its sole discretion, terminate this Memorandum at any time by providing written notice to the other Party with a minimum notice period of six (6) months.

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XII. Reporting, monitoring, and evaluation

16. The Parties recognize the importance of monitoring and evaluating the performance of collaborative activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum. CDL shall report annually on its activities to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management. Between sessions CDL should report on its current activities to the Committee Bureau.
17. The Parties also agree to meet as needed to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the collaborative activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum, including the extent to which the Parties have achieved their institutional goals and to which the overall results achieved through collaborative actions were greater than the sum of the results each Party would have achieved on its own.

XIII. Special measures for the protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

18. Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse violate universally recognized international legal norms and standards. Such conduct is prohibited by the United Nations Regulations and Rules. When entering into this agreement with UNECE, you agree that you accept these standards. Failure on your part to take preventive measures against sexual exploitation or sexual abuse, to investigate allegations thereof, or to take corrective action when sexual exploitation or sexual abuse has occurred are grounds for termination of any agreement with UNECE.
19. In witness whereof, the Parties hereto execute this Memorandum:

For the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,
Ms. Olga Algayerova,
Executive Secretary



Date: 13 December 2022

For the Columbia Global Centers | Europe,
on behalf of the City Diplomacy Lab
Dr. Brunhilde Biebuyck
Vice President



Date: 13 december 2022

Witness
Dr. Lorenzo Kihlgren Grandi
Director, City Diplomacy Lab



Date: 13 December 2022

