

JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT  
between  
*THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*  
and  
*THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, BUILDING,  
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY*  
IN THE FIELD OF  
HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Housing and Urban Development of the United States of America and the Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development of the Federal Republic of Germany (the “Participants”) envisage

- promoting discussion and strategies at the state, regional and national level on integrated policies and principles for urban development and revitalization in the two countries;
- fostering fair, equitable and sustainable housing and communities in the two countries and the ideals of a democratic society with equal opportunity for all.

They desire to promote international cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development and housing through the exploration of solutions to problems of mutual concern and the exchange of information on their policies, research, and programs in this area;

Therefore they have reached the following understanding:

**Section 1**

To realize the benefits of this Joint Declaration of Intent (“Declaration”), the Department of Housing and Urban Development of the United States of America and the Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development of the Federal Republic of Germany intend

to develop cooperative exchange programs as specified below, or as may be subsequently decided upon.

## **Section 2**

The bi-national work under this Declaration is to be jointly led by the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development of the United States of America and the Minister and State Secretary of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany. Together, they intend to oversee the development of areas of cooperation and to seek the involvement of other experts outside the government working in these and related fields who are concerned with research and policy planning issues on cities and housing and community development.

## **Section 3**

Under the dual framework of the 1) Livability Principles for Sustainable Communities, put forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency, and the 2) Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, put forth by the ministers of the Member States of the European Union, the topic areas of bilateral cooperation under consideration may include such topics as are appropriate and synchronistic to these guidelines for both countries. The Livability Principles are:

1. Provide more transportation choices.
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing.
3. Enhance economic competitiveness.

4. Support existing communities.
5. Coordinate policies and leverage investment.
6. Value communities and neighborhoods.

The Leipzig Charter recommends:

1. Making greater use of integrated urban development policy approaches.
  - a. Creating and ensuring high-quality public spaces
  - b. Modernizing infrastructure networks and improving energy efficiency
  - c. Proactive innovation and educational policies
2. That special attention is paid to deprived neighbourhoods within the context of the city as a whole.
  - a. Pursuing strategies for upgrading the physical environment
  - b. Strengthening the local economy and local labour market policy
  - c. Proactive education and training policies for children and young people
  - d. Promotion of efficient and affordable urban transport

Within this dual framework the topic areas may include:

- a. Analysis of integrated urban and regional policies relevant to the development and redevelopment of cities, metropolitan communities and rural areas in a broader framework with coordination of spatial, sectoral and temporal aspects.

- b. Ways to foster the design and development of sustainable communities through integrated and inter-governmental partnerships in a federal system, with particular attention to transit-oriented development planning and finance;
- c. Urban economic development and public–private sector investment partnerships, particularly in regard to sustainability, green retrofit, and the revitalization of cities in transition through large scale changes in their employment base;
- d. Public-private partnership comparisons, in particular the varying degrees and methods of use of private corporate and philanthropic investment with public partners at all levels of government within the revitalization and sustainability themes;
- e. Urban land use, including green space planning, urban farming and agriculture, temporary greening, brown field rehabilitation, as well as the quality of public spaces, urban man-made landscapes and architecture and their role as locational factors ;
- f. Construction technology and the development of building codes for safer, more affordable housing, with particular regard to residential energy efficiency, urban energy use, and solar, wind and geothermal housing advances;
- g. Housing finance policy, including both homeownership and rental programs, and government monitoring of mortgage capital markets;
- h. Housing rent subsidy programs: design, development, and administration;
- i. Other national policy and research issues in housing and community development and related issues as may be determined by the two governments.

#### **Section 4**

Cooperative activities initiated under this Declaration are to be conducted on the basis of equality, reciprocity, and mutual benefit. Such cooperation may be implemented by the following means, centered on the dual framework and topic areas of interest listed previously:

- (a) Organization of the exchange of delegations, including, where appropriate and feasible, professionals and specialists in the subject areas;
- (b) Exchange of information, including policy research studies, program evaluation reports, and monitoring;
- (c) Organization of bilateral conferences, seminars, forums, workshops, prizes, competitions and planning meetings, if possible at least twice a year, once in each country;
- (d) Joint research studies on particular topics; and
- (e) Other means of cooperation as may be jointly approved, for example, an exchange of employees from each organization.

#### **Section 5**

Cooperative activities undertaken pursuant to this Declaration are subject to the applicable laws and regulations of the United States of America and the Federal Republic of Germany and to the concurrence of both Governments before the initiation of any activities. Exchange of confidential or personally identifiable information is not contemplated by this arrangement, but the Participants may decide to undertake such exchanges and to memorialize the terms of such exchanges in writing.

## **Section 6**

The nature and extent of activities undertaken pursuant to this Declaration are subject to the availability of personnel and appropriated funds of each government. It is understood that each government bears the cost for its participation in such activities. This Declaration is an expression of intent only, and it does not obligate funds, personnel, services, or other resources of either Participant, nor does it create any binding obligations under international or domestic law. Each Participant acts independently with respect to the performance of activities under the Declaration and does not represent that it is an employee or agent of the other Participant. The Declaration does not give a third party any benefit, legal or equitable right, remedy, or claim under the Declaration.

## **Section 7**

Overall coordination of this bilateral cooperative program rests with the Office of Policy Development and Research of the Department of Housing and Urban Development of the United States of America and with the Urban Policy Issues Division of the Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Representatives of these offices or their designees should consult with each other and develop plans for specific cooperative activities which should cover the subject, procedures, terms of cooperation to be undertaken, the entities involved, other appropriate matters related to the conditions of such cooperation, and should review implementation of any mutually determined activities. Representatives of these offices should be responsible for appropriate coordination and cooperation within their respective governments.

## **Section 8**

Activities under this Declaration of Intent may commence from the day of signature and continue for a period of five years. This Declaration may be altered with approval in writing of both Participants. A Participant should endeavor to provide thirty days advance written notice of its intent to discontinue this arrangement. .

Signed at Washington, DC on this 9th day of May, 2011, in duplicate, in the English and German languages.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF  
HOUSING AND URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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Ron Sims  
Deputy Secretary  
Department of  
Housing and Urban  
Development

FOR THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT,  
BUILDING, AND URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF  
GERMANY:

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Rainer Bomba  
State Secretary  
Ministry of Transport,  
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