



**Memorandum of Understanding
between**

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
&
The Pennsylvania State University**

Whereas,

1. The member states of the United Nations have adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2016 Paris Climate Agreement to promote sustainable development worldwide and greenhouse gas emission mitigation;
2. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe has adopted the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings to provide a concrete pathway to reducing greenhouse gas emissions emitted through the energy services used in buildings and to help meet other 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals including health and well-being, affordable and clean energy, and sustainable cities and communities;
3. The Pennsylvania State University is committed to facilitating global implementation of the UNECE Framework Guidelines;
4. Global adoption of truly sustainable building practices and the underlying science is essential to meeting the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and 2016 Paris Climate Agreement; and
5. Building professions and a workforce educated in the sustainable building delivery, maintenance and improvement techniques required for such a building strategy worldwide are imperative;

In order to meet the objectives of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the 2016 Paris Climate Agreement, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and The Pennsylvania State University (PSU), hereafter the Parties, hereby agree to collaborate in the Global Building Network, to be established by and headquartered at The Pennsylvania State University, to conduct the research, communication, dissemination, and education necessary to promote global implementation of the *Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings* and thereby promote sustainable high performance energy efficient communities of buildings within the built environment.

- I. **Objectives of the Parties:** The overall objective of the Global Building Network initiative is to improve health and life quality within buildings while simultaneously decarbonizing building related energy, thus breaking the historic link between improved health and life quality and atmospheric carbonization. The initiative will focus on capacity development and impact in the field by providing:
- Intellectual content and material necessary to educate, advocate and advise for global building/energy/health and life quality transformation;
 - Outreach capability required to create a worldwide community level shift to truly sustainable, near-zero energy/healthy and high life quality buildings.
- II. **Activities of the Parties:** The Global Building Network will be the primary action platform for work toward the objectives of the initiative. Each Party will contribute within its mandate and approved programs of work. The GBN will conduct activities related to research, education, and collaboration.
- Research will be conducted directly by PSU and through a global consortium of research institutions related to building and energy design, technology, delivery, maintenance, improvement, life-cycle performance, management, finance, and regulation. Research will focus on the dual goals of (1) systematically articulating a new science of sustainable high performance buildings as a foundation for both educational curricula and professional practice, and (2) supporting in-the-field efforts to drive transformation.
 - Education will be conducted through online, PSU-based classroom, and in-the-field courses and other informational and instructional resources.
 - Collaborations will be developed primarily through the global research consortium and a network of practice focused UNECE-designated Centers of Excellence.
- III. **Responsibilities of the Parties:**
- The Parties will establish an active and ongoing consultation on all major facets of the GBN under this Memorandum.
 - PSU will be responsible for all development and management of the GBN.
 - The UNECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings will oversee the GBN initiative as a UNECE collaboration and facilitate outreach to countries through presentations and by providing its imprimatur to the GBN initiative and specific outreach initiatives.
 - Development and management of the GBN by PSU will include but not be limited to:

1. Hiring a director capable of establishing world-class stature for the GBN.
2. Creating a global research consortium, the membership of which will be coordinated by PSU under this Memorandum with the UNECE.
3. Creating online platforms and classroom based materials.
4. Establishing a diverse Advisory Committee of individuals distinguished in relevant professions.
5. Establishing a GBN-centric website.
6. Recommending prospective and internationally diverse UNECE Centers of Excellence.
7. Establishing liaison with relevant NGOs and civil society as needed to advance the work of the GBN in the developed and developing world.
8. Developing curricula on strategic, technical, policy and cultural aspects of high performance buildings.
9. Conducting briefings, symposia, conferences and training to advance the aims of the GBN initiative in the developed and developing world.
10. Interfacing with the UNECE and other relevant UN agencies to enhance the outreach, of the GBN.
11. Fundraising for the GBN.

- IV. Direct Oversight and Contact: The individuals with (1) direct oversight responsibility for the implementation of this Memorandum and (2) responsibility for liaison between the Parties are listed below. The Parties may, by written notice to and agreement of the other Party, designate different individuals as having overall responsibility and additional points of contact. However, the Parties agree to designate only one person each at a time as the person with direct oversight responsibility for all activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum.

Direct Oversight:

UNECE:	Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division
PSU:	Tom Richard, Director, Institutes for Energy and the Environment
Liaison:	Robert Cavey & Patricia Thompson, Praxis – a sustainability consultancy that has served as liaison on behalf of both Parties throughout development of the <i>Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings</i> and the GBN.

V. Limits of the Agreement

- The Memorandum does not constitute an agreement by either Party to provide support for any specific project or activity.
- Specific arrangements for individual projects or activities will be set forth in separate activity agreements as the Parties may deem them necessary.
- Any sharing of information between the Parties will be subject to their respective policies on disclosure of information.
- In no event shall this Memorandum, or any amendment hereof, operate to create financial or 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.
- The Parties recognize that they are legally separate and independent of each other. Neither Party has the authority to act on behalf of the other.
- This Memorandum of Understanding does not create legally binding obligations between the Parties.

VI. Protection of Intellectual Property: The Parties recognize the importance of respecting intellectual property rights. The Memorandum does not grant the right to use materials belonging to or created by either Party. Specific arrangements for the use and protection of intellectual property will be set forth in specific activity agreements as the Parties may deem them necessary.

VII. Disputes: Any dispute arising from the application or interpretation or in connection with the present Memorandum shall be settled by amicable and good faith consultations and negotiations between the Parties.

VIII. Privileges and Immunities: Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs.

IX. Entry Into Force and Duration: This Memorandum shall enter into force upon signature by both Parties and will remain in effect for a period of three years. This Memorandum will be automatically renewed at the end of the term for a successive period of three years unless terminated by the Parties in accordance with the provisions specified Section XI below.

- X. **Amendments:** This Memorandum may be amended only by written agreement of both Parties.
- XI. **Termination:** This Memorandum may be terminated by mutual agreement of the Parties or by either Party providing 90 days advance written notice to the other. In any such event, the Parties shall take all necessary actions as required to promptly and in an orderly manner terminate any on-going activities carried out under this Memorandum.
- XII. **Reporting:** The Parties shall keep each other informed of all relevant activities pertaining to this collaboration and shall hold consultations as appropriate, in order to evaluate the progress in the implementation of this MoU and to revise and develop new plans for current or prospective activities

Executed in 2 original Agreements, on _____ 2018, State College, Pennsylvania

Olga Algayerova
Executive Secretary
UNECE

Eric. J. Barron
President
Pennsylvania State University