

**DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
(UNESCO)**

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND

**REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT IN ICELAND OF AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT – SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND SOCIETAL CHANGE IN REYKJAVIK (ICELAND) AS A CATEGORY 2 CENTRE
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO**

The Government of Iceland

and

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Having regard to the resolution whereby the UNESCO General Conference seeks to favour international cooperation in respect of the establishment and operation of *International Centre for Capacity Development – Sustainable use of Natural Resources and Societal Change*, in Reykjavík, Iceland as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO,

Considering that the Director-General has been authorized by the General Conference to conclude with the Government of Iceland an agreement in conformity with the draft that was submitted to the General Conference,

Desirous of defining the terms and conditions governing the framework for cooperation with UNESCO that shall be granted to the said Centre in this Agreement,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 – Definitions

1. In this Agreement, "UNESCO" refers to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
2. "Government" means the Government of Iceland.
3. "Parties" means the Government of Iceland and UNESCO.
4. "Centre" means the International Centre for Capacity Development – Sustainable use of Natural Resources and Societal Change.

Article 2 – Establishment

The Government shall agree to take, in the course of the year 2019, any measures that may be required for the establishment of a Category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO as provided for under this Agreement.

Article 3 – Purpose of the Agreement

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the terms and conditions governing collaboration between UNESCO and the Government concerned and also the rights and obligations stemming there from for the Parties.

Article 4 – Legal status

4.1 The Centre shall be independent of UNESCO.

4.2 The Government shall ensure that the Centre enjoys, in accordance with Icelandic law and regulations and within its territory, the functional autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity:

- to contract;
- to institute legal proceedings;
- to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

Article 5 – Constitutive Act

The constitutive act of the Centre must include provisions describing precisely:

(a) the legal status granted to the Centre, within the national legal system, the legal capacity necessary to exercise its functions and to receive funds, obtain payments for services rendered, and acquire all means necessary for its functioning;

(b) a governing structure for the Centre allowing UNESCO representation within its governing body.

Article 6 – Functions/objectives

The functions/objectives of the Centre shall be to strengthen individual, organizational and institutional capacities focusing on the fields of geothermal energy, gender equality, land restoration and sustainable management of fisheries and aquatic resources, to support developing countries in the following areas:

1. in achieving sustainable development and economic growth;
2. the fulfilment of international agenda and initiatives, such as UN 2030 Agenda and Paris Climate Agreement;
3. promoting multidisciplinary and integrated approaches for sustainable use of natural resources;
4. on gender equality in line with UNESCO's global priority on gender.

The Centre shall undertake the following activities:

- a. Provide a five-to-six months training course for practicing professionals from developing countries in Iceland that draws on Iceland's expertise within: i) geothermal energy; ii) gender equality; iii) land restoration; and iv) sustainable management of fisheries and aquatic resources to build capacity of participants from developing countries or conflict/post-conflict countries.
- b. Provide training of high quality by experienced and knowledgeable lecturers that combine and balances theory, professional skills training, and project work;
- c. Undertake a robust recruitment process of fellows to which much attention, time, and resources are devoted;

- d. Facilitate networking and fruitful cooperation among fellows and institutional partners;
- e. Conduct applied research and support partners in creating and disseminating new knowledge;
- f. Create innovative electronic learning platforms, including communities of practice;
- g. Provide scholarships to former fellows to complete MSc and PhD studies, based on applied research in home countries;
- h. Develop and deliver short courses in partnership with UNESCO, local, and/or international organisations;
- i. Facilitate the active involvement of former fellows and other partners in topical national, regional, international, and UNESCO workshops and conferences;
- j. Strengthen the infrastructure of organisations, institutions, and universities in partner countries through the development of joint plans for capacity development and research;
- k. Provide advisory services to partner organisations at the national and international level;
- l. Cater to the practical and social needs of the fellows in Iceland during the training programmes
- m. Promote the activities of the Centre and the role of UNESCO in the four areas i) to iv), including herein the coordination and collaboration with UNESCO global and regional programmes and activities;
- n. Make recommendations to the UNESCO Secretariat on matters related to the mandate of the Centre and formulate proposals regarding the four areas i) to iv);

Article 7 – Governing Board

1. The Centre shall be guided and overseen by a Governing Board renewed every six (6) years and include:

- (a) up to two representatives of the Government or his/her appointed representative;
- (b) representatives of Member States of UNESCO, primarily developing countries, which have sent to the Centre notification for membership, in accordance with the stipulations of Article 10, paragraph 2 below and have expressed interest in being represented on the Board;
- (c) a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO;
- (d) The director of the Centre or his/her substitute (as a non-voting member);
- (e) a representative of the Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO;
- (f) a representative from outside of government (e.g. civil society or private sector).

2. The Governing Board shall:

- (a) approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;
- (b) approve the annual work plan of the Centre, including the staffing table;
- (c) examine the annual reports submitted by the director of the Centre, including a biennial self-assessment reports of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives;
- (d) examine the periodic independent audit reports of the financial statements of the Centre and monitor the provision of such accounting records necessary for the preparation of financial statements;

(e) adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures for the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country;

(f) decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre.

3. The Governing Board shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year; it shall meet in extraordinary session if convened by its Chairperson, either on his or her own initiative or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO or of majority of its members.

4. The Governing Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure. For its first meeting the procedure shall be established by the Government and UNESCO.

Article 8 – UNESCO’s contribution

1. UNESCO may provide assistance, as needed, in the form of technical assistance for the programme activities of the Centre, in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO by:

(a) providing the assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of the Centre; and

(b) engaging in temporary staff exchanges when appropriate, whereby the staff concerned will remain on the payroll of the dispatching organizations; and

(c) seconding members of its staff temporarily, as may be decided by the Director-General on an exceptional basis if justified by the implementation of a joint activity/project within a strategic programme priority area.

2. In all the cases listed above, such assistance shall not be undertaken except within the provisions of UNESCO’s programme and budget, and UNESCO will provide Member States with accounts relating to the use of its staff and associated costs.

Article 9 – Contribution by the Government

1. The Government shall provide all the resources, either financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Centre.

2. The Government undertakes to:

(a) make available to the Centre premises for its activities;

(b) entirely assume responsibility for the maintenance of the premises of the Centre;

(c) make available to the Centre necessary financial resources for its operation through a funding arrangement with the respective host institution(s);

(d) make available to the Centre the administrative staff necessary for the performance of its functions and objectives as outlined in Article 6

Article 10 – Participation

1. The Centre shall encourage the participation of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which, by their common interest in the objectives of the Centre, desire to cooperate with the Centre.

2. Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO wishing to participate in the Centre's activities, as provided for under this Agreement, shall send to the Centre notification to this effect. The director shall inform the Parties to the Agreement and other Member States of the receipt of such notifications.

Article 11 – Responsibility

As the Centre is legally separate from UNESCO, the latter shall not be legally responsible for the acts or omissions of the Centre, and shall also not be subject to any legal process, and/or bear no liabilities of any kind, be they financial or otherwise, with the exception of the provisions expressly laid down in this Agreement.

Article 12 – Evaluation

1. UNESCO may, at any time, carry out an evaluation of the activities of the Centre in order to ascertain:

- (a) whether the Centre makes a significant contribution to the UNESCO's strategic programme objectives and expected results aligned with the four-year programmatic period of C/5 document (Programme and Budget), including the two global priorities of the Organization, and related sectoral or programme priorities and themes;
- (b) whether the activities effectively pursued by the Centre are in conformity with those set out in this Agreement.

2. UNESCO shall, for the purpose of the review of this Agreement, conduct an evaluation of the contribution of the category 2 Centre to UNESCO strategic programme objectives, to be funded by the host country or Centre.

3. UNESCO undertakes to submit to the Government, at the earliest opportunity, a report on any evaluation conducted.

4. Following the results of an evaluation, each of the contracting parties shall have the option of requesting a revision of its contents or of denouncing the Agreement, as envisaged in Articles 16 and 17.

Article 13 – Use of UNESCO name and logo

1. The Centre may mention its affiliation with UNESCO. It may therefore use after its title the mention "under the auspices of UNESCO".

2. The Centre is authorized to use the UNESCO logo or a version thereof on its letter headed paper and documents including electronic documents and web pages in accordance with the conditions established by the governing bodies of UNESCO.

Article 14 – Entry into force

This Agreement shall enter into force, following its signature by the Parties, when they have informed each other in writing that all the formalities required to that effect by the domestic law of Iceland and by UNESCO's internal regulations have been completed. The date of receipt of the last notification shall be deemed to be the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

Article 15 – Duration

This Agreement is concluded for a period of six (6) years as from its entry into force. The agreement shall be renewed upon common agreement between the parties once the Executive Board made its comments based on the results of the renewal assessment provided by the Director-General.

Article 16 – Denunciation

- 1. Each of the Parties shall be entitled to denounce this Agreement unilaterally.
- 2. The denunciation shall take effect within 30 days following receipt of the notification sent by one of the contracting parties to the other.

Article 17 – Revision

This Agreement may be revised by written consent between the Government and UNESCO.

Article 18 – Settlement of disputes

- 1. Any dispute between UNESCO and the Government concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, if not settled by negotiation or any other appropriate method agreed to by the parties, shall be submitted for final decision to an arbitration tribunal composed of 3 members, one of whom shall be appointed by the Government, another by the Director-General of UNESCO, and a third, who shall preside over the tribunal, shall be chosen by the first two. If the two arbitrators cannot agree on the choice of a third, the appointment shall be made by the President of the International Court of Justice.
- 2. The Tribunal’s decision shall be final.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed this Agreement,
DONE in [...] copies in the [...] languages, on [...]

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For the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

For the Government