

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Between the United Nations Development Programme, Damascus Governorate,
and Università Iuav di Venezia

This Statement of Intent is concluded between the United Nations Development Programme ("UNDP"), a subsidiary organ of the United Nations with headquarters in New York, NY (USA); the Damascus Governorate of the Syrian Arab Republic; and Università Iuav di Venezia ("IUAV"), a public university headquartered in Venice, Italy. The three entities are hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Signatories."

UNDP, with a global presence in nearly 170 countries, serves as the operational arm of the United Nations at the country level and works with partners to promote sustainable development, poverty eradication, good governance, and post-crisis recovery.

The Damascus Governorate leads local governance and urban development within the capital of the Syrian Arab Republic and plays a critical role in spatial planning, service delivery, and reconstruction.

IUAV is a public academic institution dedicated to architecture, urban planning, and design, with decades of international experience in urban transformation, post-conflict reconstruction, and heritage preservation.

Purpose of Collaboration

The Signatories express their shared intention to collaborate in the area of sustainable urban planning and redevelopment for the city of Damascus and its surrounding vital context. This collaboration will contribute to long-term recovery and preservation of the city's historic and cultural identity.

Specifically, the Signatories intend to cooperate in the following areas:

1. Support the preparation of the Master Plan for Damascus and its vital context (metropolitan area);
2. Facilitate joint review, evaluation, and analysis of previous planning documents and studies related to Damascus and its vital context, to benefit from them in the development of an integrated and future urban vision
3. Develop sustainable site-specific design strategies for damaged or destroyed areas, reflecting international best practices;
4. Provide guidance for the restoration and development of historical neighborhoods, including the Old City of Damascus, to preserve the urban

identity and cultural heritage of the city,

5. Strengthen local capacities through training programs, workshops, and reciprocal visits between Syria and Italy for the exchange of experiences and the understanding of international practices in the fields of urban planning, reconstruction, and heritage conservation;
6. Explore the creation of a Syrian-Italian urban research center specialized in urban planning, architectural heritage, and sustainable development to support ongoing knowledge exchange and technical collaboration.

This cooperation will be pursued under the broader framework of the institutional MoU signed between UNDP and IUAV on 25 October 2023.

Conditions

Neither Signatory will be an agent, representative, or joint partner of the other Signatory. Neither Signatory will enter into any contract nor commitment on behalf of the other Signatory and will be solely responsible for making all payments to and on behalf of its own account, as provided under this letter.

The Signatories recognize that the cooperative arrangements should be publicized and therefore agree to acknowledge the role and contribution of each organization in all public information documentation relating to instances of such cooperation and use each organization's name and emblem in documentation related to the cooperation in accordance with the current policies of each organization and subject to prior written agreement of each Signatory.

The Signatories will explore possibilities to enter into future collaboration in order to further expand their partnership. This may include formalizing complementary roles for other academic and technical institutions, such as Università Iuav di Venezia ("IUAV"), in alignment with the goals of this initiative.


The Signatories recognize that this statement is strictly limited to the scope described above and does not entail any further commitments on any Signatory.

For Università Iuav di Venezia

Name: Benno Albrecht

Title: Rector

Date:



20/10/2025

For UNDP Syria

Name: Mohammedsiddig Mudawi

Title: Resident Representative- Syria CO

Date:


20/10/2025

For Damascus Governorate

Name: Mosab ahmad Badawi

Title: Deputy of Governor of Damascus

Date:

