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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)
Subject:	Joint Declaration between the European Union and the Republic Of India on a Partnership for Smart and Sustainable Urbanisation - Approval - Decision to use written procedure

1. On 15 September 2017 the Commission submitted to the Council a draft Joint Declaration between the European Union and the Republic of India on a Partnership for Smart and Sustainable Urbanisation¹.

¹ WK 9628/1/2017 INIT.

2. As set out in the Joint Statement adopted at EU-India Summit on 30 March 2016, and the EU-India Agenda for Action 2020, both India and the European Union seek to "enhance EU-India cooperation on Urban Development with increasing involvement of Indian States and cities, EU Member States and regions/cities, building on regular dialogue on issues such as infrastructure, energy, sanitation and water management, to promote dialogue and partnership/twinning between local, regional and state entities". These fields are also in line with the priorities of the New Urban Agenda adopted at United Nations Habitat III where both the EU and India were among the signatories.
3. The EU and India are already engaged in decentralized cooperation on sustainable urban development including the EU-Mumbai Partnership, the EU's World Cities project and the EU's International Urban Cooperation programme.
4. The Joint Declaration will provide a more coherent framework for the dialogue between the EU and the Republic of India on sustainable urban development bringing together the many existing actions already underway in the field. The endorsement of the Joint Declaration is seen as an important deliverable of the Summit.
5. The Joint Declaration is not intended to create any legal or financial obligations under domestic or international law in respect of either side.
6. The envisaged date for signature by the Commission on behalf of the Union is 6 October 2017 on the occasion of 14th EU-India Summit taking place in New Delhi.
7. It is necessary that the Council approve the signing of the Joint Declaration by the Commission on behalf of the EU.
8. Having examined the text of the Joint Declaration, the Asia-Oceania Working Party agreed on the text annexed to this note on 29 September 2017.

9. The Permanent Representatives Committee is accordingly invited to agree that the Council:

- uses the written procedure to approve the signing of the Joint Declaration by the Commission on behalf of the Union.

**JOINT DECLARATION
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
ON A
PARTNERSHIP FOR SMART & SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION**

The Republic of India and the European Union,

CONSIDERING

- The ambition of both India and the European Union, as laid down in the Joint Statement adopted at EU-India Summit on 30 March 2016, and the EU-India Agenda for Action 2020, is to "enhance EU-India cooperation on Urban Development with increasing involvement of Indian States and cities, EU Member States and regions/cities, building on regular dialogue on issues such as infrastructure, energy, sanitation and water management, to promote dialogue and partnership/twinning between local, regional and state entities".

UNDERLINING

- The challenges that the EU and India face in terms of an ever increasing urban population,
- The importance of working jointly to successfully meet these challenges.

WELCOMING

- The importance of the United Nations Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including a roadmap to implement sustainable development across the world;
- The United Nations New Urban Agenda (NUA) adopted in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016, aiming at paving the way towards making cities and human settlements more inclusive and ensuring that everyone can benefit from urbanization;

- The historic success of COP 21 in adopting the Paris Agreement in December 2015 which seeks to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels while pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, through enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and recognising the critical role of urban development policy in this regard, in particular, in promoting climate resilient urban centres, smart urban mobility, and sustainable energy.

RECOGNIZING

- That the number of people living in Indian cities by the year 2050, are estimated at 843 million and that 60% of the world's population will be living in towns and cities in the next 10 years;
- The challenges posed by rural to urban migration, and the risk of growing income disparities and social polarisation in urban areas, with negative impacts, in particular, for women and vulnerable groups and the need to strive to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment;
- The need to promote resilient and sustainable development in its three key dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and the opportunities that arise for more efficient provision of services of energy, transport, waste management, health and education provided by these developments;
- The need to plan the development of cities and human settlements so as to foster community cohesion and personal security and to stimulate innovation and employment;
- The '100 Smart Cities Mission', Swaach Bharat and the 'AMRUT' programme launched by the Government of India aimed to remedy challenges by developing public transport, sewerage, water supply and sanitation, housing and public green spaces;

- The Urban Agenda for the EU where cities are one of the major players as they directly or indirectly implement EU policies on the ground and therefore contribute to EU's major policy objectives including green cities, environmentally-friendly cities, sustainable mobility in cities, open cities, resilient cities, smart & innovative cities, creative cities.
- The EU-Mumbai Partnership established in 2013 to build a long-term cooperation platform to address challenges of urbanisation in mega-cities;
- The EU's successful World Cities Programme which has brought together experts from Indian and European cities to develop sustainable projects.
- The EU's support to urban local authorities (ULAs) in India to promote integrated action at municipal level addressing basic services such as water, sanitation and solid waste management; empowering the Local authorities to effectively execute government programmes; improving institutional capacities and accountability; and enabling inclusive and sustainable development.
- The engagement of the EU Member States in India's Urban agenda.

APPRECIATING

The shared vision fostering the availability and implementation of cost-effective and affordable technological solutions, policies and practices for smart and sustainable urban development for the benefit of all citizens.

REACHED the following understanding:

I. OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this Joint Declaration are to promote and strengthen:

1. The cooperation and the dialogue between the EU and India on sustainable urban development;
2. The respective capabilities of India and the EU for implementing global commitments in the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs), the United Nations New Urban Agenda (NUA) and the Paris Climate Agreement as well as in the framework of national level policies;
3. The dissemination of policies, technologies, business solutions, financing mechanisms for sustainable urban development
4. The cooperation on research and innovation in support of smart and sustainable urbanisation.

II. AREAS OF COOPERATION

India and the European Union endeavour to encourage and promote cooperation in following areas:

1. The establishment of an India-European Union Smart and Sustainable Urbanisation Partnership (hereafter “The Partnership”), bringing together representatives of relevant stakeholders, including interested EU Member States, European and Indian institutions, Local Authorities, businesses and civil society;

2. To strengthen ongoing dialogues by exchanging views on policy, regulatory and standardisation approaches, governance, best practices, business solutions, market access and joint research and innovation opportunities in the field of inter-alia urban planning, urban environment, waste management, waste water treatment, drinking water supply, air quality management, nature based solutions, resource efficiency and circular economy, clean energy, energy efficiency, greening urban transport, ICT solutions, climate change adaptation in cities;
3. To promote exchange of know-how and capacities, best practices, access to and dissemination of technologies and best practices for sustainable urban development in support of the implementation of national and local policies, and to exchange views and experiences on mobilising funding and encouraging joint cooperation on research and innovation.
4. To build on the work carried out by EU Members States in these fields and in coordination with other relevant players involved in India's urbanisation agenda.

III. FORMS OF COOPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

1. India and the EU intend to steer the Partnership in accordance with EU-India Agenda for Action 2020:
 - Both sides endeavour to establish an India-European Union dialogue on smart and sustainable urban development, led by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for India and by the Delegation of the European Union for the EU.
 - Both sides should ensure the involvement of other relevant partners in such dialogue to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to smart and sustainable urban development.
 - To further support the Partnership, both sides intend to reinforce dialogue and cooperation in research and innovation relevant for this partnership.

2. The Partnership should elaborate an action-oriented work programme contributing to the achievement of its objectives. The first Work Programme should be agreed during the first dialogue on smart and sustainable urban development, expected for spring 2018. Indicative actions, expected to be included in the first Work Programme, are included in the annex to this Joint Declaration.
3. Progress on the implementation of this Partnership should be regularly assessed by the Indian and EU partners as appropriate; future work programmes should be agreed according to these assessments and upcoming challenges and opportunities taking into account respective capabilities, in line with the framework of the New Urban Agenda.
4. Specific project activities under this Partnership are supported through the EU's ongoing technical assistance projects. Both parties intend to actively explore additional funding possibilities for deployment of projects under this Partnership.
5. In the framework of this Partnership, the EU and India endeavour to promote/encourage business-to-business dialogues, also in view of the deployment of existing and new technologies enhancing sustainable urban development, both to the EU and Indian market.
6. The Partnership intends to explore the possible involvement of the European Investment Bank as well as EU Member States development agencies and other relevant institutions, for implementation of sustainable urban development related projects. In this context, synergies should be ensured with the EU-India dialogue on development including opportunities for investment and blending.

IV. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Other than project support through any financial instruments mentioned in the Annex to this Joint Declaration, India and the EU will bear their own expenses arising from the cooperation activities carried out under this Joint Declaration and the proposed Partnership.

V. NON-BINDING CHARACTER

This Joint Declaration is not intended to create any legal or financial obligations under domestic or international law in respect of either side.

New Delhi, 06 October 2017.

**ANNEX TO THE JOINT DECLARATION
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

ON A

PARTNERSHIP FOR SMART & SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

India and the EU endeavour to develop a Work Programme for the Partnership, to be agreed during the first dialogue on smart & sustainable urban development, expected for spring 2018. The first Work Programme could include actions in the following areas:

- An India-European Union dialogue on smart and sustainable urban development;
- Joint activities under the EU-Mumbai Partnership;
- Continued implementation of the Ecocities project, promoting use of renewable energy, clean technology and energy efficiency in the delivery of municipal services;
- Continued implementation of Technical Assistance, which promotes the exchange of best practices in sewage treatment and solid waste management in the cities of Mumbai and Delhi, and the work with Urban Local Bodies in India to promote integrated urban management actions and improve basic municipal services;
- Activities related to scaling up and developing pilots for smart and sustainable urban projects;
- Activities for establishing a network of urban initiatives in India which would meet on a regular basis to facilitate the dissemination of the tools and results from ongoing and previous activities, to maximise synergies and avoid overlaps;
- Activities under the EU-India Air quality Initiative for urban areas;
- Activities related to sustainable water management in cities;

- Carrying out a circular economy mission to India with European businesses and organisations involved in environment, clean energy and sustainable urbanisation;
- Activities to further develop the pilot Metropolitan Labs, which have been tested in Mumbai and Ahmedabad, with a view to develop a specific curriculum and deliver these Labs in key cities across India to foster good governance and develop urban projects as well as, more generally, activities that promote sustainable human settlement planning and management;
- Activities for implementation of the International Urban Cooperation programme (IUC, including 12 city-to-city pairings between Indian and European cities, including in support of Local Action Plans;
- Activities to support cities in developing a sustainable energy and climate mitigation and adaptation programme to contribute to India's NDC and be part of the Global Covenant of Mayors chapter in India;
- Activities relating to the Implementation of the Energy Efficiency in Buildings Code (ECBC);
- Cooperation activities regarding ICT standardisation for smart cities (in particular on Internet of Things/Machine to Machine (M2M) communications and Intelligent Transport Systems);
- Cooperation activities related to urban mobility;
- Activities related to scaling up the cooperation between the European Union and Indian scientific community and business and innovator actors;
- Activities related to Financing of Urbanisation projects, including cooperation with the European Investment Bank and coordination with the bilateral development cooperation dialogue;
- Implementation of existing EU funded blending projects for sustainable housing and sustainable urban transport and further exploring the opportunities for blending of grants and loans with a view to ensuring sustainable financing for urban projects;

- Cooperation activities regarding capacity building and traineeship on the use of information and advanced spatial data mining techniques such as developed in the framework of the Global Human Settlement Layer (GHSL).
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