

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

FOR COLLABORATION IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION TO PROMOTE, FURTHER AND SUPPORT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ARUBA

Undersigned organizations, Natural Care Aruba Foundation, International Teleport Aruba Foundation and Institute for Industrial Development Aruba Foundation, from the NGOs, Scientific & Technological Community, and Business & Industry sectors from the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS), as defined in the Agenda 21 outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED '92), held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Considering that the United Nations in subsequent International Conferences held in Rio de Janeiro (UNCED, 1992), the Johannesburg Summit (2002), and in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20, 2012) on sustainable development, and in International Conferences on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Barbados (1994), Mauritius (2004) and in Samoa (2014) has identified SIDS as particularly vulnerable, and facing many challenges in fostering, promoting, implementing and achieving sustainable development,

Considering that the SAMOA Pathway outcome document of the Samoa 2014 International Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS called for the establishment of the SIDS Partnership Framework designed to monitor progress of existing, and stimulate the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS,

Considering that the UN document "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" which outlines five central themes, People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership, seventeen Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, states in its Preamble:

"All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind",

Considering that the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) for the Sustainable Development Goals and the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum) aim to facilitate and assess the science, technology and innovation cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling that Aruba, as a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is technically and officially associated to the European Union through its Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) status, and thus has access to facilities, instruments and mechanisms of the European Union for economic and social development, cultural cooperation, and collaboration, support and funding of fundamental and applied scientific research, academic collaboration and exchange programs and access to science, technology and innovation programs within the European Union that through quadruple and quintuple helix frameworks for local and regional economic and social development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals extend beyond the borders of the European Union and to the OCTs,

Noting that the University of Aruba through its Sustainable Island Solutions through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics study program, in collaboration with KU Leuven in Belgium, funded by the European Union, has laid the basis for further collaboration in science, technology and innovation for sustainable economic and social development in Aruba and beyond,

Considering that actors in the Aruban NGOs, Science & Technology Community and Business and Industry sectors have embarked on a path of innovation through citizen science projects, innovation labs and fostering and furthering the use of science and technology for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,



Considering that plans exist in Aruba to pursue access to facilities, instruments and mechanisms of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission to expand collaboration with European Union actors in science, technology and innovation to benefit from quadruple and quintuple helix framework approaches in innovation environments (startup accelerators, incubators and science and technology parks), and

Identifying the need to create an institutional framework in Aruba for collaboration in science and technology for the Sustainable Development Goals, which can contribute to accelerate economic development, and create collaboration between innovation communities, the private sector and academic institutions and research.

The undersigned organizations, herein afterwards referred to as signatories have agreed to the following:

PURPOSE AND NAME OF COLLABORATION

The signatories have decided to collaborate and commit on the basis of mutual respect and benefit. The collaboration will be modeled after the flat and open network model for innovation communities and will use the quadruple and quintuple helix frameworks of the European Union for local, regional and international economic and social development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. The collaboration will be given the name of Science, Technology and Innovation Platform Aruba, or for short STIP Aruba.

AREAS OF COLLABORATION

Fundamental research, applied engineering and science research, open and inclusive science, including citizen science, innovation environments (startup accelerators, incubators, science and technology parks).

The focus will be on themes and research areas as promoted and recommended by the United Nations for SIDS, and facilities, instruments and mechanisms of the European Union for economic and social development, cultural cooperation, and collaboration, support and funding of fundamental and applied scientific research, academic collaboration and exchange programs and access to science, technology and innovation programs within the European Union that through quadruple and quintuple helix frameworks for local and regional economic and social development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals extend beyond the borders of the European Union and to the OCTs.

The main focus of the Sustainable Development Goals will be on:

- Goal 3: Good Health and Wellbeing
- Goal 4: Quality Education
- Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 13: Climate Action
- Goal 14: Life below Water
- Goal 15: Life on Land
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the SDGs

Five cross cutting thematic clusters for science, technology and innovation have been identified:

1. Health, Work, Wellbeing and Ageing
2. Renewable and Natural Resources Management (Water, Energy, Waste, Agriculture and Biodiversity)
3. Bio and Life Sciences
4. Knowledge Economy, Digital Infrastructures, Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things
5. Space Science and Technologies, including Robotics, Remote Sensing and Autonomous Technologies

INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION

The signatories intend to establish working relationships with organizations, enterprises and individual researchers from the following Major Groups and other Stakeholders:

1. Farmers
2. NGOs
3. Scientific and Technological Community
4. Business and Industry
5. Workers and Trade Unions
6. Women, Youth and the Elderly
7. Persons with Disabilities
8. Education and Academia

FINAL TERMS

Because of the flat and open network structure for collaboration any activities conducted by the Signatories in the context of this collaboration are subject to rules and regulations of their governing bodies, pertaining to financial and budgetary matters as well as collaboration with other parties.

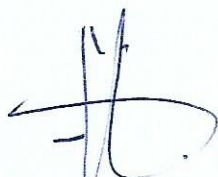
For joint programs and projects the signatories may enter into collaboration agreements, with detailed specification of program management, financial management and oversight, governance, ethics codes, intellectual property licensing and protection agreements and other requirements as requested by funding agencies.

The Signatories may decide to eventually incorporate the STIP Aruba for which the most appropriate legal entity may be chosen to retain the flat and open network structure of an innovation community, or decide to create legal entities tasked with specific activities in fundamental science research, applied engineering and science research, open and inclusive science, including citizen science and innovation environments (startup accelerators, incubators, science and technology parks).

The collaboration outlined in this Memorandum of Collaboration enters into effect upon the date of signature.

Signed on April 22, 2022, in the City of Oranjestad, three original copies.

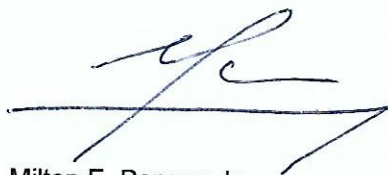
In witness whereof



Marina E. Silva

Secretary

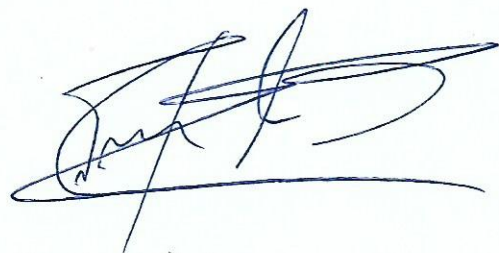
Natural Care Aruba Foundation



Milton E. Ponson Jr.

Secretary/Research Coordinator

International Teleport Aruba
Foundation



Francisco L.M. de Mey

President

Institute for Industrial Development
Aruba Foundation