

Letter of Intent on Collaboration between the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and Mission Innovation

Vancouver, Canada - 27 May 2019

Despite growing awareness of the need for transformative urban climate action, there is still a significant gap between cities' ambition and their ability to implement actions that will reduce emissions as well as build local-level adaptive capacity and resilience. Actionable pathways are complex and methods to accelerate climate action at scale are not clearly understood. Rapid urbanization, disruptive technology, and dramatically changing climates and ecosystems present additional external challenges that impact successful implementation.

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (hereinafter GCoM) is the largest global alliance of cities and local governments voluntarily committed to actively combatting climate change and transitioning to a low carbon and climate resilient economy, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Led by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Action, Michael R. Bloomberg, and European Commission Vice President, Maroš Šefčovič, in partnership with local, regional and global city networks, the Global Covenant has nearly 10,000 city signatories across 6 continents and more than 120 countries, representing over 800 million people or more than 10% of the global population. GCoM has launched Innovate4Cities, a city-focused research and innovation initiative that addresses critical data, innovation and technological gaps that will enable cities to take accelerated and more ambitious climate action. Co-developed by cities, city networks, scientists and research institutions, and leading private sector entities, the initiative focuses on some of the areas that are most critical to drive climate action in cities.

Mission Innovation (hereinafter MI) is a global initiative of 23 countries and the European Union aimed at accelerating global clean energy innovation. MI's goal is to accelerate the pace of clean energy innovation so as to achieve performance breakthroughs and cost reductions that can deliver widely affordable and reliable clean energy solutions across the world in the next two decades and beyond. As part of the initiative, participating countries have committed to seek to double their governments' clean energy research, development and demonstration (RD&D) investments over five years, while encouraging greater levels of private sector investment in transformative clean energy technologies.

No single organization, initiative, sector, or level of government, however innovative or impactful, can accomplish all the transformational change required to meet the challenges of tackling climate change -related energy access and energy security and the UN 2030 Sustainability Goals. A partnership between MI and GCoM maximizes synergy between the missions and objectives of our two initiatives – particularly in advancing the shared goal of accelerating clean energy innovation. Our collective work will connect national governments and private sector through Mission Innovation to channel resources, data, and technology to cities so they move from ambition to full-scale implementation. It will accelerate the pace of innovation and the scale of both sustainable transformation, dissemination, especially around clean energy technologies.

Through this nonbinding letter, MI and GCoM signal their intent to strengthen collaboration and build deeper engagement between cities and citizens, local governments, and national governments to create the enabling environments and large-scale investments required to generate the applied Research and Innovation tools, insights, and technological advancements that local governments need to close their commitment gaps and deliver the actions necessary to both meet the Paris Agreement and accelerate the clean energy revolution.

Together, MI and GCoM propose to work together across three key areas:

- **Focusing investment at the city level:** Promote synergies between the Innovate4Cities Research and Innovation Agenda and the priorities of the Innovation Challenges, with a focus on city-level research and innovation investment opportunities outlined by the Innovate4Cities agenda that can facilitate replicated and scaled clean energy solutions. Key areas of activity include:
 - Identifying synergies for joint research and investment between cities, regions, and national governments (e.g. collaboration on smart grid technology development and demonstration)

- Share key learnings, tools and best practices to accelerate progress on specific Innovation Challenges (e.g. sharing solutions at the local level on heating and cooling in buildings)
 - Promote public-private-people partnerships as effective methods for communicating between stakeholders and delivering beneficial innovation outcomes (e.g. synergies with the MI Champion and Youth programmes by involving MI Champions and Youth Leaders in City-led research and innovation activities)
 - Promote participatory co-creation processes and public acceptance/ownership of solutions through large-scale multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary demonstration projects/test beds in cities (e.g. pilot projects in cities around the world and demonstrating joint projects between cities and countries)
 - Replicate and upscale solutions to fit diverse urban contexts and drive wider market uptake through innovative finance strategies, such as public procurement of pre-commercial innovation (e.g. distributed generation such as roof mounted solar P.V. in cities).
- **Highlight and share best practices:** Highlight the roadblocks across procurement, incubation, and public-private-people partnerships that can hinder implementation of innovative and integrated technologies and identify region-specific solutions that can be disseminated to other national governments and cities. Facilitate access to city data and ensure the proper exploitation of big data, digital innovation, data protection and the importance of involving citizens in the choices to be made and to communicate openly (Open Access to data).
 - **Deeper collaboration during and between Mission Innovation Ministerials:** Explore opportunities to embed mayors in Ministerial activities especially linked to Mission Innovation's eight Innovation Challenges. Seek opportunities to highlight the specific needs of cities and local governments and discuss shared opportunities in order to broaden Research and Innovation investment in cities. This will leverage GCoM's work and experience acquired in developing Innovate4Cities R&D to support MI investment priorities and will also engage GCoM's Regional Covenants around the world.

To ensure continuity in their collaboration, GCoM and MI will appoint representatives to meet periodically and identify specific Research and Innovation topics of mutual interest, which are relevant to the shared activities above. Together, representatives will outline their potential intent to proceed jointly in implementing activities towards achieving shared objectives. GCoM and MI will each be responsible for their own costs involved in such meetings and scoping activities.

This letter does not in any way commit either party to financial or human resource obligations. Commitment of financial and human resources by GCoM and/or Mission Innovation for each agreed activity or project shall be clearly set out through the conclusion of appropriate agreements and shall be subject to each party's policies and procedures.

The collaborative arrangements, as set out in this letter of intent between GCoM and the Mission Innovation shall be reviewed after two years and any further collaboration mutually agreed at that time.

In the interest of this collaboration and in the spirit of mutual trust, MI and GCoM agree to the following to not disclose any documentation and/or information shared by either entity that should reasonably be recognized as confidential, given the nature of the information and/or the circumstances of disclosure.

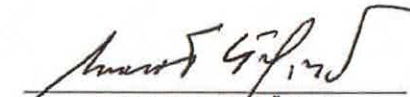
Signed in 2 (two) original copies, both in the English language:

For and on behalf of Mission Innovation:



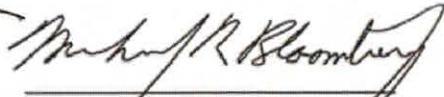
Honourable Amarjeet Sohi
Minister of Natural Resources
Canada

For the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy:



Vice President Maroš Šefčovič
European Commissioner for the Energy Union
GCoM Co-Chair

For the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy:



Michael R. Bloomberg
GCoM Co-Chair