

JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT

BETWEEN

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AND

THE FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

This Joint Declaration of Intent (“JDI”) is made by and between the State of South Carolina (“SOUTH CAROLINA”) and the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany (“FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE”), collectively, the “Participants” and each a “Participant.”

INTRODUCTION

The Participants acknowledge the deep political, social, economic, cultural, and scientific ties that have strengthened and furthered the transatlantic cooperation between the United States and Germany since the end of World War II. This transatlantic relationship is based on a shared and strong commitment to democratic principles, institutions, and common values and has built over time a dense network of relations in the sphere of the economy, civil society, science, and culture;

The Participants recognize each Participant’s desire to reaffirm and further strengthen their transatlantic cooperation and partnership to address current global challenges, with a specific focus on the important and fast growing areas of energy resiliency and sustainability, mobility, and life sciences;

They concur that the goal of their cooperation is to encompass a wide range of topics and agree that this Joint Declaration of Intent may subsequently be broadened by mutual consent.

In acknowledgement of the mutual benefits outlined herein, the Participants agree to engage in good faith efforts to achieve the goals of continued collaboration based on the following:

1. PURPOSES

The purposes of this JDI are to:

- a. Promote and strengthen collaboration and cooperation between SOUTH CAROLINA and the FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE, establish parameters of such cooperation, and deepen ties and address barriers in the areas identified in Section 2 herein, with the ability to add additional sectors at a later date as needed;
- b. Collaborate in furtherance of the objectives outlined herein;
- c. Increase economic opportunity for the Participants’ respective citizens and businesses; and
- d. Strengthen the bond that has existed between the people of SOUTH CAROLINA and the FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE since the end of World War II.

2. PRIORITY SECTORS

- a. The Participants will, subject to the applicable laws, rules, regulations, and national and sub-national policies governing the subject matter in SOUTH CAROLINA and the FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE, respectively, endeavor to encourage and promote strategic and technical cooperation for mutual benefit in the areas of energy resiliency and sustainability, mobility, and life sciences.

For each of the priority sectors, the Participants will focus on the following areas:

- i. Scientific and educational cooperation, as well as workforce training in the area of sustainable energy technologies, mobility technologies, and life science technologies;
- ii. Research on resilient and sustainable energy and in support of innovation, development, and the exploration of new technologies;
- iii. Exploration of financial support mechanisms through joint market analysis to help inform government and industry investment planning; and
- iv. Any other subject area mutually agreed upon by the Participants.

3. PROCEDURES FOR COOPERATION

- a. In furtherance of the purposes of this JDI, as articulated in Section 1, the Participants may carry out the following activities:
 - i. Exchange publicly available scientific and technical information;
 - ii. Encourage and facilitate study trips, as well as professional and academic exchanges;
 - iii. Encourage academic and research and development institutions and the private sector to work together on joint projects (research and development), training and educational programs (including vocational training), and the exchange of expertise;
 - iv. Facilitate dialogue through support of conferences, workshops, and other meetings on agreed upon topics, targeting especially, but not exclusively, specialized professionals, young people, start-ups, and small businesses;
 - v. Encourage private sector companies and industry bodies to cooperate closely and to explore further business opportunities, e.g. through trade and investment delegations; and
 - vi. Facilitate other forms of cooperation as may be determined jointly by the Participants in writing.
- b. The South Carolina Department of Commerce, on behalf of SOUTH CAROLINA, and the German Consulate General Atlanta, on behalf of the FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE, will form a working group (the “Working Group”) to meet periodically to coordinate and implement these activities pursuant to the JDI.
 - i. The Working Group’s agenda(s) and time and place of meetings will be jointly decided upon by the Participants.

- ii. The host Participant will chair the meeting(s). For meetings with no obvious host, including meetings held by videoconference, the Participants will jointly decide the chairperson in advance of the meeting.
- iii. The Participants will conduct an annual review of activities under the JDI to exchange information on progress and consideration of future collaboration opportunities. The Working Group will serve as the mechanism for this review, the members of which will update their respective authorized officials accordingly.
- iv. The Participants understand that each Participant will bear its own internal and external costs incurred in connection with the Working Group meetings.

4. FUNDING

- a. This JDI does not involve or require the commitment or transfer of financial or material resources by or between the Participants.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

- a. SOUTH CAROLINA designates the South Carolina Department of Commerce and the FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE designates the German Consulate General Atlanta (collectively, the “Designees” and each a “Designee”) as the coordinating authorities for all state interactions related to this JDI.
- b. The Designees will coordinate the implementation of the JDI, as appropriate, between and among entities in SOUTH CAROLINA and the FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE. The Designees may generate a timeline to foster regular interaction and provide direction in the implementation of this JDI to ensure progress in areas of mutual benefit.

6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- a. If any intellectual property rights arise from the operation of this JDI, the Participants understand it will be attributed and protected in accordance with Participants’ respective state and national laws, subject to any alternative arrangements that may be decided by those participating in the activity.
- b. In the event that the Participants wish to carry out joint research projects under this JDI, they will establish separate instruments to provide for the attribution and disposition of any intellectual property that might arise from such joint research projects.

7. INFORMATION SHARING AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- a. The Participants confirm that the information exchanged under this JDI will only be disclosed to third parties by mutual consent of the Participants in accordance with Section 8 herein and in a manner consistent with the objectives of the JDI.
- b. In circumstances where either Participant is legally obliged to disclose any information related to this JDI under applicable law, by court order, or for another reason, it will notify the other Participant before doing so.

8. THIRD PARTY PARTICIPATION

- a. The Participants acknowledge and agree that individuals and entities from the private, public, academic, research, and other sectors may be invited to support the cooperative activities described herein, provided that they can directly and meaningfully contribute to the achievements of the objectives of the JDI. Subject to each Participant's absolute discretion, this support may include, but is not limited to, participation by research institutions, economic development organizations, non-governmental and advisory bodies, private enterprise, trade associations, and public-private partnerships.

9. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- a. The Participants intend to resolve amicably any questions concerning implementation of this JDI through mutual consultation and negotiation.
- b. This JDI constitutes an expression of the Participants' good faith intention to engage in the collaboration described herein.
- c. This JDI is not legally binding under state, national, or international law and does not constitute an international treaty or create any rights or obligations under domestic or international law.
- d. This JDI is effective on the date of its signature and will continue in operation until terminated by either Participant. The Participants may amend this JDI at any time upon their mutual written consent. Either Participant may terminate this JDI at any time and should provide a 90 days' written notice of its intention to end cooperation under this JDI to the other Participant.

10. PARTICIPANTS ADDRESSES

- a. For all purposes of this JDI, the addresses of the Participants are:

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
1201 Main Street, Suite 1600
Columbia, SC 29201
United States of America

FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
Werderscher Markt 1
10117 Berlin
Federal Republic of Germany

Signed in duplicate in the English and German languages in _____ on _____ in the year of 2025.

FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

*Henry D. McMaster
Governor
State of South Carolina
United States of America*

**FOR THE FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE OF
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

*Jens Hanefeld
Ambassador
Federal Foreign Office of the Federal
Republic of Germany*