

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**ON MUTUAL COOPERATION**

**BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**

**AND**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF JERSEY**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda and the Government of Jersey (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Participants"):

DESIRING to cooperate in a variety of initiatives in accordance with the partnership principles and common approach set out in this enhanced Memorandum of Understanding on mutual cooperation;

RECALLING the collaboration facilitated under the original Memorandum of Understanding on mutual cooperation signed by the Participants in 2016 and updated in 2019;

APPRECIATING the strength of the existing relationship, and of the potential to work together more closely for the benefit of both jurisdictions through continued dialogue;

ACKNOWLEDGING the Government of Rwanda's Vision 2050 including the aims to transform Rwanda into a high-income country and achieve high quality standards of living for all Rwandans;

ACKNOWLEDGING the Government of Jersey's Sustainable Economic Development Strategy and vision for Jersey to be a consistently high-performing, environmentally sustainable and technologically advanced small island economy by 2040;

DESIRING to raise living standards, promote economic growth and stability, create new employment opportunities and improve general welfare by liberalising and expanding mutual trade and investment;

RECOGNISING the Participants' desire to share their expertise and experience with partner countries to support development objectives, facilitate capacity building, and ensure alignment with international standards;

RECOGNISING the opportunities for closer cooperation for the benefit of the people of both jurisdictions, especially in relation to trade and investment, financial services, skills and employment, educational opportunities, gender equality, culture and heritage, and climate adaptation;

SEEKING to support equality, inclusivity, and civic participation across all areas of collaboration envisaged under this Memorandum;

THEREFORE have reached the following understandings.

## **PARAGRAPH 1: OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION ARRANGEMENT**

- 1.1 The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is to upgrade and enhance the bilateral relationship between the Participants by identifying and progressing opportunities for mutual cooperation and benefit across a broad range of priority areas.
- 1.2 Using this MOU as the foundation, the Participants intend to share knowledge and best practice to support the achievement of development targets and foster working relations between the governments and peoples of both jurisdictions through a long-standing and beneficial partnership.
- 1.3 The Participants will initiate a consultative process concluding in the delivery of a range of projects that are approved by both jurisdictions. Further cooperation outside of the areas referenced in this MOU may be explored, subject to acceptance by both Participants.

## **PARAGRAPH 2: GOVERNMENT OF JERSEY**

For the Government of Jersey:

- 2.1 The Ministry of External Relations will coordinate with other key departments and associated agencies in Jersey to progress approved initiatives.
- 2.2 A senior Jersey official will be appointed to act as the main focal point to liaise with Rwandan counterparts for the purposes of the MOU.
- 2.3 All relevant departments and agencies will be provided with access to legislation, guidelines or other relevant documents necessary for the implementation of any aspect of collaborative working.
- 2.4 Reasonable information requirements for regular monitoring and evaluation of any established projects will be provided and, where necessary, assistance given.
- 2.5 Subject to the Government of Jersey's prior approval, the need for and availability of in-kind or direct financial support will be assessed with the aim of supporting approved initiatives.

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### **PARAGRAPH 3: GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**

For the Government of the Republic of Rwanda:

- 3.1 The Rwandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation ("MINAFFET") will coordinate with other key Rwandan Ministries as necessary to progress approved cooperative projects.
- 3.2 A senior official from MINAFFET will be appointed as the main focal point to liaise with Jersey counterparts for the purposes of the MOU.
- 3.3 All relevant departments and agencies will be provided with copies of legislation, guidelines or other relevant documents necessary for the implementation of any aspect of collaborative working.
- 3.4 Reasonable information requirements for regular monitoring and evaluation of any established projects will be provided and, where necessary, assistance given.
- 3.5 Subject to the Government of the Republic of Rwanda's prior approval, the need for and availability of in-kind or direct financial support will be assessed with the aim of supporting approved initiatives.

### **PARAGRAPH 4: AREAS OF COOPERATION**

- 4.1 This MOU is intentionally wide-ranging, reflecting the depth and breadth of shared interests between the Participants. Priority areas of mutual cooperation include, but are not limited to, those mentioned hereafter.

#### **Trade and Investment**

- 4.2 The Participants recognise the importance of bilateral trade and investment as a means of realising sustainable development, economic growth, and the exchange of personnel, knowledge and cultural understanding.
- 4.3 The Participants seek to use their best endeavours to support and encourage opportunities to promote direct trade between the jurisdictions, including through the facilitation of trade delegations and trade-focussed events or advice.
- 4.4 The Participants jointly decide to explore mechanisms to reduce potential barriers to direct trade between Jersey and Rwanda and to support their respective exporters with market entry and promotion as appropriate.
- 4.5 The Participants seek to enable greater flows of direct and indirect investment in both directions between Jersey and Rwanda, and will codify this commitment through the

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conclusion of a separate Bilateral Investment Treaty ("BIT"), which the Participants will endeavour to conclude before the end of 2024.

- 4.6 Following the conclusion of the BIT, the Participants will carry out promotional activities with their respective investor communities to outline the benefits of the treaty and encourage greater levels of investment activity.
- 4.7 Recognising the ongoing development and maturation of the African Continental Free Trade Area ("AfCFTA"), and the key role played by Rwanda in its inception and development, the Participants will explore opportunities for joint engagement with the AfCFTA Secretariat and member states, including policy exchanges based on emerging practice and measures emanating from the bloc.
- 4.8 The Participants will seek to identify and execute opportunities to promote their trade and investment partnership, including the concept for a biennial 'Jersey–Rwanda Economic Summit' to be hosted in Jersey or Rwanda on an alternating basis, as well as at multilateral events such as the UK-African Investment Summit or the Commonwealth Business Forum.

#### **Financial, Professional and Legal Services**

- 4.9 The Participants acknowledge Jersey's position as an established centre for world-class financial, professional and legal services which is well-regarded for its innovation, international cooperation and high standards of regulation and transparency.
- 4.10 The Participants also acknowledge the rapid and continuing growth of Rwanda's offering as a hub for financial, professional and legal services, with its increasing recognition as a centre for Central and Eastern Africa and significant growth potential to become a global financial hub.
- 4.11 The Participants, with the support of relevant arms-length-organisations including Jersey Finance Ltd and Rwanda Finance Ltd, commit to maintaining their strong collaboration to enhance the development of the sector in both Jersey and Rwanda.
- 4.12 The Participants and their partner agencies will cooperate with a view to enabling the transfer of knowledge and expertise through assistance with policy development and capacity building as may be possible.
- 4.13 The Participants and their partner agencies will cooperate with a view to supporting exchanges of personnel including work placements to enhance skills and address recruitment pressures in these important areas.

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### **Skills and Education**

- 4.14 The Participants have through their existing partnerships formed successful initiatives to develop skills, including study tours to Jersey by Rwandan financial sector institutions, and have supported increasing numbers of Rwandans to find work placements in Jersey particularly in the tourism and hospitality sector.
- 4.15 The Participants recognise the ongoing pressures and skills shortages across the globe, and desire to create amenable provisions to match, wherever possible, the capacity and expertise of one jurisdiction with instances of under-resourcing and identified skills gaps in the other jurisdiction.
- 4.16 Both Participants wish to use this partnership to identify and fulfil employment and training opportunities in both directions between Jersey and Rwanda for those who are seeking to gain skills and experience through overseas work.
- 4.17 To encourage long-term partnerships in skills and employment opportunities, it is envisaged that the Participants will facilitate connections between educational providers, to identify skills-rich pathways for school leavers and graduates entering the workforce.

### **Gender Equality and Inclusion**

- 4.18 The Government of Jersey recognises the Government of the Republic of Rwanda's global leadership on issues relating to gender equality, female empowerment, and inclusive policies to support these core principles.
- 4.19 The Government of the Republic of Rwanda acknowledges and supports the Government of Jersey's enhanced focus on initiatives to support gender equality and inclusion in Jersey, including the implementation of the recommendations made by Jersey's Independent Taskforce for Violence Against Women and Girls, and the Government of Jersey's desire for further international engagement to inform this work.
- 4.20 The Participants share the belief that all jurisdictions continue to follow an iterative process to support gender equality and inclusion, and that bilateral partnerships can establish mutual benefits for all parts of their communities.
- 4.21 The Participants jointly decide to facilitate regular engagement between respective policy officials to support the development of initiatives in this area, which may include visits to the jurisdiction of the other Participant to provide information about the development and implementation of public policies to further gender equality and inclusivity.

### **Development**

- 4.22 The Participants recognise the ongoing importance of targeted development programmes as a driver of wider sustainable economic development, and acknowledge the role that Jersey has played in supporting Rwanda's long-term objective towards becoming a High Income Country.
- 4.23 The cooperation in dairy and agriculture has been a remarkable success, continuing to deliver better livelihoods for communities across Rwanda and reflecting the cultural and social significance of the cow in both Jersey and Rwanda. The Participants will maintain their support for the work of delivery partners including the Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society and Jersey Overseas Aid in implementing dairy initiatives in Rwanda such as cross-breeding stations, genetic improvement techniques and the greater use of technology in farming.
- 4.24 The Participants will also facilitate the wider development of partnerships supported by Jersey stakeholders in Rwanda – such as projects to boost conservation skills and livelihoods in rural communities – educational exchanges, and efforts to improve financial inclusion and economic empowerment.

### **Culture and Heritage**

- 4.25 The Participants recognise the importance of developing strong people-to-people links to complement and sustain a long-term, enhanced partnership between both governments. Accordingly, the Participants resolve to identify and support opportunities for cultural exchange, including through the creative arts.
- 4.26 The Participants commit to establishing a separate Memorandum, under the auspices of this MOU, to focus specifically on cooperation in culture and heritage to foster better understanding between the people of Jersey and Rwanda.
- 4.27 The Participants jointly decide to reassert the importance of cultural exchange and interaction as part of broader civic engagement in Jersey and Rwanda, and will through the separate Memorandum emphasise the key role of historical experience and national memory in advancing this cultural dialogue.

### **Climate adaptation**

- 4.28 The Participants acknowledge the critical importance of coordination and cooperation to address the global climate emergency.
- 4.29 Whilst Jersey and Rwanda are relatively small in geographical terms, and acknowledging that their contribution to carbon emissions, resource exploitation and broader environmental impact is fractional compared to larger jurisdictions, the Participants nonetheless emphasise through their respective climate strategies the need for

collaboration and meaningful action.

- 4.30 The Participants will identify opportunities for engagement, including dialogue between policy officials on key policy areas including: renewable energy technology, autonomous vehicles, eco-tourism and conservation, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the dairy sector, and civic engagement on environmental policies.
- 4.31 The Participants will also seek to promote and support sustainability as a key principle throughout their engagement relating to financial services and investment.

#### **PARAGRAPH 5: PREVENTION AND SETTLEMENT OF DISAGREEMENTS**

- 5.1 This MOU is not a binding legal agreement and does not create any rights or obligations under international laws or domestic laws in any jurisdiction. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this MOU and other bilateral understandings or arrangements, the Participants will consult with one another on measures to resolve the conflict.
- 5.2 In the event of any problem arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this MOU, the Participants will cooperate with the intention of reaching a mutually acceptable resolution.

#### **PARAGRAPH 6: ADMISSION, WITHDRAWAL AND REVIEW**

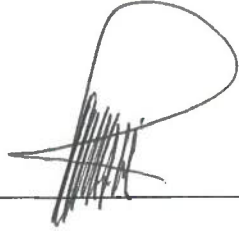
- 6.1 This MOU will come into effect from the date of signature by both Participants.
- 6.2 The working of these arrangements will be reviewed by the Participants annually following the date of coming into effect.
- 6.3 Amendments to this statement of commitment may be decided in writing between by both Participants.
- 6.4 A Participant may withdraw from this MOU at any time subject to three months' prior written notice of such intention to the other Participant.
- 6.5 This MOU will remain valid for an initial period of five years from date of signature and may be renewed by joint decision between the two Participants.

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**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
RWANDA:**

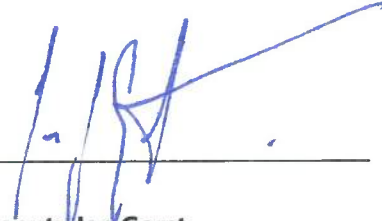


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**His Excellency Johnston Busingye**  
High Commissioner to the Court of St James's

Date of signature: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
JERSEY:**



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**Deputy Ian Gorst**  
Minister for External Relations

Date of signature: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024