



## **Letter of intent**

**Between**

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

**And**

**Country Sint Maarten**

On October 10 2010, the Netherlands Antilles (consisting of five Dutch Caribbean islands: Curaçao, Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten) was dissolved. The islands Sint Maarten and Curaçao became autonomous countries within the Kingdom of the Netherlands and now have responsibility for their overall development. The Kingdom of the Netherlands now consists of four countries: Sint Maarten, Aruba, Curaçao and the Netherlands.

It is the ambition of Sint Maarten to work towards a strong, independent position as a country within the Kingdom. To reach this ambition Sint Maarten needs a broad and integral plan on state- and nation building and on national development. To establish this, Sint Maarten is willing to work together with and make use of the experience UNDP built in these fields over the years. In this respect it's the intention of Sint Maarten and UNDP to work out a corporation project with the following objectives:

1. Develop strategies for nation building and national development through a participative approach;
2. Implementation of policies aimed towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's);
3. Further implementation of the development information database (Dev-info) as a precise and sensitive tool to measure and benchmark Sint Maartens social-economic development.

This letter of intent presents the main principals of the intended project. The details will be worked out in a project document. After agreement is reached over the details, the project document and a financial agreement known as the Cost Sharing Agreement (CSA) will be signed. These documents will be legally binding for both parties.

## **Project and activities**

The following goals and sub-goals are neither exhaustive nor final but reflect the line of thought at the time of signing.

**Goal 1** Develop strategies for nation building and national development (NDP) including strategies developed through a participative approach;

- Short, middle and long term goals defined for Sint Maarten with respect to nation - and state building in relation to NDP.
- New national vision on nation building and development forged that forms the basis of the national development plan.
- Communication awareness plan on i.e. citizenship and participation developed that forms part of the nation building and national development plan and strategy.
- National development plan and implementation developed based on financial and human resources assessment.

*The process would include:*

- Usage of the newly published MDG report for Sint Maarten as a basis for the new Sint Maarten national development plan. A needs assessment research conducted including development of an overview report on best practices and of stakeholders to be involved in the process and best practices in the region on national development.
- Tools developed for improved democratic participation (for example platform developed that connects the public to government through, interactive website, neighbourhood forums, knowledge platforms).

**Goal 2** Implementation of policies aimed towards reaching the millennium development goals (MDG's);

- Diagnostic study prepared to determine most impactful and sustainable programmes needed to meet MDG's especially on eradication of poverty and hunger, environmental sustainability, education and health.
- Pilot projects identified and started on MDGs 1 and 7. Implementation plans developed and tested.
- Second MDG report for Sint Maarten drafted.

**Goal 3** Further implementation of the development information database (Dev-info) as a precise and sensitive tool to measure and benchmark Sint Maartens social-economic development.

- The installation and setting up of the Dev-info database system which is complementary to the Sint Maarten STAT/CBS system.
- National Dev-Info database populated with data and in use by government, data available to the general public through a dedicated web site.
- Train the trainer's Dev-info workshop given to relevant personnel.

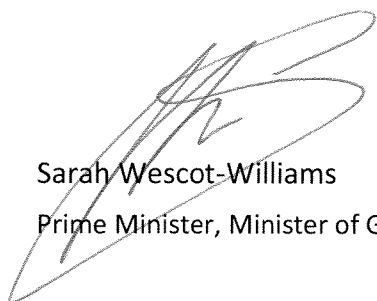
## Organization

The government organizational structure of Sint Maarten consists of 7 ministries, each headed by a secretary general and a political responsible minister. The Prime Minister is also minister of General Affairs. The Ministry of General Affairs is among others responsible for the overall and interdepartmentally coordinated development of country Sint Maarten. This is one of the main tasks of the policy department of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BAK). BAK will be responsible for the execution of the project and coordination within government.

UNDP will give country office support to Sint Maarten including two people trained in development cooperation issues based in Sint Maarten. Where relevant or needed, specialized technical expertise will be hired by UNDP (in cooperation and agreement with BAK) to assist Sint Maarten in the implementation of the various aspects of the project. The UNDP will furthermore support Sint Maarten's efforts to link up with EU, OCTA and other multi lateral institutions and work together with regional partners to enhance professionalism and strive on a global/holistic approach to development.

Philipsburg, 7 July 2011

Signed on behalf of Sint Maarten,



Sarah Wescot-Williams  
Prime Minister, Minister of General Affairs

Signed on behalf of UNDP,



Marcia de Castro  
UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Suriname,  
Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao and  
Sint Maarten