

**Memorandum of Understanding  
between  
the Ministry of Construction,  
People's Republic of China  
and  
The Departments of Housing and Urban Development  
and Commerce,  
United States of America  
concerning the  
Housing Cooperation Initiative**

Recognizing the importance of housing and the objectives of China's housing reform efforts, the Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Commerce, United States of America and the Ministry of Construction in the Government of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter "the Parties") have reached the following agreement on a Housing Cooperation Initiative:

**Article 1**

This Memorandum of Understanding establishes the U.S.-China Residential Building Council to formulate and implement the Housing Cooperation Initiative.

The U.S.-China Residential Building Council will consist of a Steering Committee and a Secretariat. Both sides may also invite other concerned government departments, public institutions, research institutes and enterprises to participate in Council activities.

The Steering Committee plans to meet every two years, alternately in the United States and the People's Republic of China. Its main responsibilities include: determining the cooperation guidelines, principles, framework, priorities and approach, and examining and approving bi-annual cooperation plans.

The Secretariat is a standing body under the Steering Committee. Its main responsibility is to coordinate the activities of the Committee.

**Article 2**

The intention of this Initiative is to create an organized and systematic approach for exchange and cooperation in the field of housing development. This initiative may be implemented through mutual visits and study tours, exhibitions, seminars and workshops, and construction of demonstration projects. Cooperation programs in the fields of housing policy and finance and housing industrialization are outlined in the annex to this Memorandum of Understanding

The U.S.-China Residential Building Council may also through its cooperative discussions and activities, advance the achievement of the great economic potential of housing and promote the social objectives of the U.S. and China.

**Article 3**

Funding for any specific project under this Initiative or the work conducted by the Residential Building Council is contingent upon the availability of financial resources from the Parties.

**Article 4**

Activities under this Memorandum of Understanding commence upon signature and continue in effect for five (5) years, until the Memorandum of Understanding is terminated by either party giving six (6) months notification to the other party.

Signed in Washington, DC on November 1, 1999, in triplicate, in the Chinese and English languages.

Mr. Andrew Cuomo  
Secretary  
Department of Housing  
& Urban Development  
United States of America

For Mr. William M. Daley  
Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
United States of America

Mr. Yu Zhengsheng  
Minister  
Ministry of Construction  
People's Republic of China

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