**POLICY FOR DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL AND CONTINENTAL/REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, CENTRES OR NETWORKS SUPPORTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.**

This partnership agreement proposes a voluntary cooperative arrangement between IACD and recognized national or continental/regional association, centres or networks supporting community development. The aim of the partnership agreement is to strengthen grassroots development practice, theory and policy across the world and, with the UN and its agencies (World Bank, UNESCO, WHO, ILO etc.), with which IACD has consultative status.

**About IACD**

The International Association for Community Development (IACD) is a non-governmental organisation.  It is the only global network for professional community development academics, practitioners and activists. It supports development agencies and practitioners to build the capacity of communities to realise greater social and economic equity, environmental protection and political democracy.

IACD is open to professional community development academics, practitioners, community activists, students training to do grassroots development work, trainers, researchers, policy advisers and development agencies working in this field. The association is open to both individuals and organisations.

Its services include organizing international conferences, organizing practitioner dialogue workshops and field visits, publishing *Practice Insight* magazine, publishing an e-newsletter, providing an on-line bank of resources and, advocating for community development with the UN and its agencies. The association is also currently developing an International Community Development Clearing House of training (certificate) and education (degree - AA, BA, MA and Ph.D.) programes available around the world.

Its governing Board and Executive are elected from the association’s membership at its Annual General Meeting (AGM). Several of its Board members serve as Regional Directors, with responsibility for promoting the association and its activities within specific global regions. The association’s President, two Vice Presidents and Treasurer are elected from the Executive Committee. All members of the Board serve in a voluntary capacity. The association has a small executive staff team working at its headquarters office in Scotland, UK.

In 2014 IACD decided to introduce Country Correspondents. These are IACD members who, in a voluntary capacity, help to promote the association and its activities at a national level. The association also decided to undertake mapping research to identify what national and continental/regional associations, centres or networks already exist that support grassroots development practice in urban or rural areas. As with the training/education Directory, this organisational Directory will also be posted on the IACD website for access to those interested in linking to a community development program and/or organization.

IACD seeks to identify existing networks and associations, with which it hopes to sign partnership agreements that will mutually benefit both partners and, enhance the experience and voice of community development worldwide. This builds upon the successful arrangement IACD has had for many years with the Community Development Society in the USA. By establishing such partnership agreements, IACD hopes that such partners may also become IACD Country Correspondents and help to strengthen their region’s presence globally.

**Principles**

It is hoped that a long-term objective of these partnership agreements will lead to a global confederation of national and continental/regional community development centres and networks.  Each partner organisation would maintain its autonomy and independence, but would agree to a common set of principles developed through dialogue among the members and to working more closely together to support community development around the world.

This would include:

* sharing information about practice, theory and policy within respective countries and regions;
* collaborating over representations, i.e. “White Papers” or policy and program recommendations to the UN and other international agencies;
* working together on joint projects;
* promoting each partner’s work to respective members;
* organising joint events and conferences and participating/exhibiting at each other’s events;
* promoting each other’s publications;
* providing articles of interest to each other’s respective magazines, email distribution lists, websites, social media.

**We propose that partnership agreements be co-signed and reviewed on a bi-annual basis to ensure an effective dialogue continues between partners. These agreements would be highlighted on the respective partners’ websites and newsletters.**