

UK Built Environment Advisory Group Roundtable Joint Statement

Commonwealth built environment professionals commit to working more effectively ‘Towards a Common Future’.

Representatives have agreed to collaborate to build capacity and develop more effective solutions for Commonwealth countries which are urbanising most rapidly and are among the most vulnerable.

The collaboration was agreed at a roundtable¹ held at the Houses of Parliament yesterday and attended by government and United Nations representatives, INGOs, and the built environment professions. The roundtable coincided with the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

The roundtable was also used to launch the Commonwealth Association of Architects' *100 Years of Architecture in the Commonwealth*² to

professionals fast enough to compensate for the shortfall together with a perceived gap in built environment policy in terms of standards, implementation and enforcement.

Presentations were also presented with the ‘Planning for Rapid Urbanisation Toolkit’ developed by the Prince’s Foundation, for use by rapidly growing cities with limited access to planning expertise. The toolkit was developed in collaboration with CAP and the CAA, and supported by the Royal Town Planning Institute, the Commonwealth Local Government Association, New York University and UN Habitat.

After the event, Peter Oborn, Chair of the UK Built Environment Advisory Group

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said: “It is important that the built environment professions from around the Commonwealth have recognised the need to collaborate more effectively with one another to support the most vulnerable member countries. The evidence from the surveys has highlighted the seriousness of the situation and the need for innovative solutions, and it is only by working together that we be able to realise the potential of urbanisation to create prosperity, stability and a truly sustainable future.”

END

¹ The roundtable was hosted by Bob Neill