



AIR CENTRE
ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE

**LETTER OF INTENT
TOWARDS A LONG-TERM FINANCING FRAMEWORK
TO SUPPORT SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING
IN THE ATLANTIC REGION**

**Delivering the
ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE
(AIR CENTRE)**

**Las Palmas, Canary Islands,
25-27 November 2018**

Bearing in mind the conclusions and the commitments of the first two High-level meetings on “Atlantic Interactions”, held in Terceira and in Florianopolis, in 2017, regarding the establishment of the AIR Centre - Atlantic International Research Centre, as an internationally distributed scientific organization across Atlantic countries, in association with scientific and research organizations worldwide, to be established in a stepwise process,

Reaffirming the need to promote an innovative scientific, innovation, capacity building and business development agenda with a multidisciplinary approach that can surpass the existing R&D gaps and link the areas of Oceans, Space and Climate, in a South-North and North-South cooperation, including a Basic Scientific Program as identified in the third High Level meeting on “Atlantic Interactions”, held in Praia, Cabo Verde,



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The signatories, during the “Forth High-level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue on Atlantic Interactions” held in Las Palmas, Canary Islands, 25-27 November 2018, making use of the terms and common understanding described below,

Hereby,

- Strengthen that the funding agencies and financing programs constitute one essential pillar for researchers, entrepreneurs, society and governments;
- Recognize the high number of existing regional, national, European and international financing programs that constitute successful cases, including different discipline scopes in the areas of space, atmosphere, oceans, climate, energy and data science;
- Strengthen that addressing the Societal Global Challenges aligned in the UN 2030 Agenda require the sustained development of concrete scientific, innovation, capacity building and socio-economic actions among different Atlantic countries and regions, while increasing cooperation of teams from various thematic areas and disciplines that have traditionally worked in a more or less isolated manner;
- Strengthen that the actions previously referred to above, increasingly require an aligned financial support that must be prolonged in time to bring a real impact on society;
- Strengthen that the rising demand for finance for actions aligned with UN Agenda 2030 requires the analysis and potential adaptation and/or changes of the existing distributed financing frameworks in the Atlantic region;
- Express their support to the AIR CENTRE by making its best efforts to provide the appropriate information to conduct a study in 2019, elaborating on a medium to long-term joint funding/ financing framework to support science, innovation, capacity building and business development in the Atlantic region, intended to



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support multidisciplinary science for Atlantic societies addressing the SDGs aligned in the UN 2030 Agenda. This study and its articulation and alignment with Atlantic initiatives, already in place or in the implementation phase, should have the following non-exclusive scope:

- Analysis of the existing financing programs in the different Atlantic countries and regions, whose scope encompasses, in an individual or integrated manner, the scientific areas of space, atmosphere, ocean, climate change, energy and data science;
- Study present, and emerging financing requirements related to the intended multidisciplinary scope, integration of regional, national and international existing frameworks, and time frame required for the development of the scientific, innovation and social actions to be implemented;
- Identify and bring together the relevant actors that at different levels are necessary for the referred actions, towards the definition of an efficient financing framework and to accelerate the mobilization of the necessary financial means;
- Propose adequate funding/financing mechanisms for different funding/financing agencies to engage in a combined funding/financing of projects and initiatives aligned with agreed scientific, innovation, capacity building and business development agendas for the Atlantic region.

This letter is not intended to create, nor may be construed as creating, any binding or other legal obligations on the signatory institutions.



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Las Palmas, 2018,

The signatories,

Agencia Estatal Investigación (AEI), Spain, Victoria Ley on behalf of Marina Villegas,
Director

Azores Fundo Regional para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FRCT), Portugal, Bruno Pacheco,
President

Centro Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial (CDTI), Spain, Javier Ponce, Director General

Programa Iberoamericano de Ciencia y Tecnología para el Desarrollo (CYTED), Alberto
Majó Piñeyrúa, General Secretary

Fundação Cearense de Apoio Desenvolvimento Científico (FUNCAP), Brazil, Tarcísio
Haroldo Cavalcante Pequeno, President

Fundação Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT), Portugal, Paulo Ferrão, President