STATEMENT OF INTENT
BETWEEN THE SOUTHERN RIM GATEWAY CITIES TO THE ANTARCTIC: USHUAIA, PUNTA ARENAS, CHRISTCHURCH, HOBART AND CAPE TOWN

Ushuaia, city of Argentina, Punta Arenas, city of Chile; Christchurch, city of New Zealand; Hobart, city of Australia, and Cape Town, city of South Africa - as the Southern Rim Gateway cities to the Antarctic act in accordance with the guiding principles of the Antarctic Treaty that promote the enhancement of peaceful and cooperative relations between signatory Nations.

Ushuaia, city of Argentina, Punta Arenas, city of Chile, Christchurch, city of New Zealand, Hobart, city of Australia, and Cape Town, city of South Africa, have recognised a potential mutual interest to share and embrace best practices in areas such as Antarctic related education, work force development, tourism and economic development. The participants believe that the potential for expanded collaboration will be of mutual benefit to all five cities.

To develop their prospective mutual interests and intentions as Gateway Cities to the Antarctic, the Mayors of the five cities, have decided to sign a Statement of Intent that confirms the five participants' commitment to a joint exploration into the benefits of a cooperative programme of academic and best practice exchange.

i. The five participants will carry out, in accordance with the principles of equality and mutual benefit, a full exploration of potential exchanges in the areas of education, work force development, tourism, and economic development to promote common prosperity and city advancement.

ii. Regular contacts will be maintained between the identified project leader(s) and relevant Departments to facilitate consultations on the exchanges and cooperation as well as matters of concern.

iii. This Statement of Intent will come into effect from the date of signature. It will be valid for a period of 18 months. It is intended that, should all participants make favourable findings, an Arrangement will be signed prior to the expiry date.

This Statement of Intent was signed on 25 September 2009 in Christchurch.

Ushuaia, Argentina
Honourable Federico Sciurano, Intendente de Ushuaia

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Punta Arenas, Chile
Honourable Vladimiro Mimica Cárcamo, Alcalde de Punta Arenas

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Christchurch, New Zealand
His Worship Mr Bob Parker, Mayor of Christchurch

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Hobart, Australia
Lord Mayor of Hobart, Mr Robert Valentine

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Cape Town, South Africa
Her Worship Ms Helen Zille, Mayor of Cape Town

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