Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Between

Solanki Brothers Council for Open and Distance Learning (SBCODL), India

And

Unión de Universidades de América Latina y el Caribe (UDUALC),

for

Strategic Memorandum of Understanding between SBCODL and UDUALC for Global Academic Collaboration, Joint Membership and Institutional Development,

Date: June 14, 2025

1. Preamble

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered into on this Jun 14, 2025, by and between:

- Solanki Brothers Council for Open and Distance Learning (SBCODL): A non-profit, autonomous educational council registered under Section 8 of the Indian Companies Act, recognized by NITI Aayog (Unique ID: UP/2024/0414971), MSME (UDYAM-UP-25-0003415), and tax-exempt under Sections 12A & 80G of the Income Tax Act of India. SBCODL promotes inclusive and accessible education through open and distance learning.
- Unión de Universidades de América Latina y el Caribe (UDUALC): The biggest, oldest and most consolidated network of Higher Education Institutions of the region, serves as a paramount instrument for the harmonization of endeavours among higher education institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean region, fostering the exchange of knowledge, experiences, resources, and best practices between its members.

The Parties aim to collaborate in areas including education, research, capacity building, institutional development, and international academic cooperation, particularly in Open and Distance Learning (ODL).

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2. Purpose

The purpose of this MoU is to:

- Promote academic collaboration and mutual capacity building.
- Encourage international research partnerships and faculty development.
- Support institutional development initiatives aligned with quality standards.
- Organize joint seminars, workshops, and publications.
- Foster global academic partnerships, especially in South Asia, East Africa, and Latin America.
- Support shared initiatives in academic development and global engagement.
- Build a sustainable platform for intercultural dialogue and cooperation.

Note: This MoU does not imply the issuance or co-issuance of formal degrees or diplomas by UDUALC. Degree issuance is solely the responsibility of individual universities.

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3. Scope of Collaboration

A. Academic Collaboration

- Joint curriculum development and exchange of best practices in ODL.
- SBCODL and UDUALC may issue joint certificates in the case of diploma programs jointly organized by both parties.

B. Research and Innovation

- Co-authorship of scholarly publications in ODL and digital pedagogy.
- Joint academic conferences and research dissemination platforms.

C. Faculty Development

- Webinars and workshops for professional growth in digital teaching.
- Faculty training initiatives jointly promoted by SBCODL.

D. Student Engagement

- Promotion of virtual cultural and academic exchange programs.

Note: UDUALC facilitates cooperation among its affiliated universities for mobility initiatives but does not coordinate them directly.

E. Policy and Representation

- Shared participation in education policy forums and advocacy platforms.
- Mutual attendance at major educational conferences.

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4. Quality Assurance and Recognition

• UDUALC has the Consejo de Evaluación y Acreditación Internacional (CEAI), (Council for Intrenational Evaluation and Acreditation) which provides accreditation services to universities and academic programs through quality certification processes. In addition, CEAI offers specialized advisory services in quality management, internationalization, and curriculum development.

• SBCODL may offer quality assurance recommendations or self-regulated support to its partner institutions in India, based on site visits and internal evaluation reports.

• In India, SBCODL will serve as the sole coordinating and authorized body for the implementation and monitoring of this MoU. Therefore, it is considered that CEAI could provide complementary support in quality assurance and recognition activities in Latin America and the Caribbean within the framework of collaboration between UDUALC and SBCODL.

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5. Joint Membership Understanding

- Both parties agree to explore opportunities for cooperation among their respective institutional partners, without creating a new "joint membership" structure.
- SBCODL will not charge UDUALC members any membership fees under this agreement.
- Each Party retains full control of its own membership systems.
- It is proposed to state that the names and logos of both parties may be used only in activities, projects, or materials for which there is a prior and explicit agreement between SBCODL and UDUALC. The use of either Party’s name or logo—including on official websites, social media, certificates, and promotional materials—must be appropriate, accurate, and dignified.

- Upon signing this MoU, both Parties are mutually authorized to display each other's names and logos on their official websites

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6. Implementation and Oversight

- Each Party shall appoint a Liaison Officer to coordinate communication and implementation.
- Collaborative activities will be governed by mutually agreed Terms of Reference (ToR) on a case-by-case basis.

For SBCODL:

Name: Dr. Arvind Singh

Title: Chairperson

Email: chairman@sbiea.co.in Mobile – 9997874343

For UDUALC:

Name: Dr. Roberto Iván Escalante Semerena

Title: Secretary General

Email: roberto.escalante@udualc.org

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7. Duration and Termination

- This MoU is valid for an initial term of six (6) years and may be renewed upon mutual agreement.
- Either Party may terminate the MoU with 60 days' written notice, subject to the completion of ongoing obligations.

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8. Intellectual Property and Acknowledgment

- Any co-developed content, research, or publications will acknowledge both Parties.
- Intellectual property shall be governed by specific agreements depending on the nature of the collaboration.

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9. Dispute Resolution

- Any dispute arising from this MoU shall be resolved through mutual consultation and, if necessary, third-party mediation.

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10. Governing Language

The language of this MoU and all correspondence shall be English.

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11. Signatures

For Solanki Brothers Council for Open and Distance Learning (SBCODL):

Name: Dr. Arvind Singh

Title: Chairperson

Email: chairman@sbiealco.in

Signature: _____

Date: Jun 14, 2025

For Unión de Universidades de América Latina y el Caribe (UDUALC):

Name: Dr. Roberto Iván Escalante Semerena

Title: Secretary General

Email: roberto.escalante@udualc.org

Signature: _____

Date: June 13, 2025