Nairobi, 10th February 2017

Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA)
47A, Gajaba Place, Robert Gunewardena Mw.,
Colombo 6
Sri Lanka

Dear Executive Director,

5000 FOR 5000

RE: A SHELTER AFRIQUE INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE INNOVATION IN LOW INCOME HOUSING

The middle income population in many African Cities is growing. However, there is another story: uncomfortable and often less told; the story of Africa’s urban poor. It is estimated that today, two-thirds of the population in Africa’s cities and townships live on less than US$3 per day.

Almost universally, housing supply has failed to respond to the need of this segment of the urban population. The cost of new housing including those built by Government Agencies is significantly beyond what people on low income can afford. Consequently this has led to a rapid growth of informal settlements and slums on the edge of Africa’s major cities with obvious adverse economic development, health, safety and security implications.

As Africa’s primary Housing Development Finance Institution, Shelter Afrique is leading a results focused debate on how the housing market can be made to work for the more than 300m Africans living on low incomes in urban areas. As an initial step, we are promoting an international competition inviting design proposals for a 45sq.m self-contained housing unit that can be completed at a cost of no more than US$5000 excluding the cost of land and bulk infrastructure. The competition is open to all nationalities and anyone including individuals, teams of designers, artists, architects, engineers etc. A copy of the competition brief, is attached for your information and can also be accessed via our website on: http://www.shelterafrique.org/index.php/the-5000-for-5000-home-competition/

The award structure for the competition will be in two stages:

➢ Stage 1 – A prize fund of US$100,000 to be allocated to the top entries with the majority going to the adjudged top 3 entries.
Stage 2 – An undertaking by Shelter Afrique (and partners) to support and financing for the development and completion of 5000 units of the winning entry in agreed locations across Africa.

To be successful, we are keen to work with partners from the Built Environment profession and I wish to invite your organization to join us as a partner in making a difference through this initiative.

As a partner, you can contribute in the following ways:

- Assist in promoting and publicizing the competition amongst your members and network;
- Co-Brand the Competition alongside Shelter Afrique on the webpage and other competition materials;
- Co-Sponsor the Competition for any amount of your choice.

The Competition was launched on 25th November 2016 with a closing date of 31st March 2017. If you require further information about the competition and how you can be involved, please contact the Competition Coordinator, Mr. Babatunde Oyateru on boyateru@shelterafrique.org

We look forward to partnering with you to make a difference for Africans on low income who are in most need of a safe home they can afford.

Yours sincerely,

FEMI ADEWOLE
ACTING MANAGING DIRECTOR