



## DECLARATION

The State of Rio de Janeiro and the State of Maryland have long enjoyed a beneficial relationship that dates back to 1964 when a delegation from Maryland first visited Rio de Janeiro.

Since then, visits by one Party to another were done and some interaction and exchange projects have been developed, involving numerous areas of expertise such as educational, cultural, environmental, trade, among others.

During all these years, we have the invaluable help of the "Partners of the Americas," an institution that is helping us to develop a number of partnership projects involving our states.

This partnership of 46 years was first turned official by signing a preliminary Memorandum of Understanding that was signed between the Governors of Rio de Janeiro and Maryland in November 1999.

Continuing this partnership, we are currently in negotiations for signing a new Memorandum of Understanding, more complete and comprehensive, allowing an increase of programs and partnership projects involving Maryland and Rio de Janeiro.

We are convinced that this agreement will contribute greatly to the development of existing friendly and cooperative relationship between our countries.

Rio de Janeiro, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pedro J. Spadale".

**Pedro J. Spadale**  
Undersecretary of International Relations  
State of Rio de Janeiro

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. McDonough".

**John P. McDonough**  
Secretary of State  
State of Maryland