

20 August 2025

To Whom It May Concern.

We, at the University of the Free State – Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (UFS-DiMTEC), are pleased to express our strong support for the application to the Centre of Excellence (SFF) scheme, led by Professor Nicola Paltrinieri of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), for the proposed Centre initiative **NordNatech**.

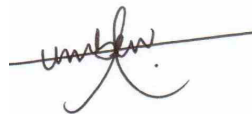
We recognise both the scientific relevance and the ambitious vision of NordNatech, and we fully endorse this initiative. We greatly value our ongoing relationship with NTNU through our shared interests in IDRiM, natural hazard-triggered technological disasters, and disaster risk management. We see clear potential for mutually beneficial collaboration that is well aligned with the Centre's thematic focus.

Should the proposal be invited to the next stage, we are open to further dialogue to identify suitable avenues for collaboration. These may include:

- Staff and student exchanges
- Joint research projects and activities
- Knowledge exchange and advisory contributions
- Joint postgraduate supervision
- Serving as external examiners for UFS-DiMTEC programmes
- Reciprocal research visits

We look forward to the opportunity of working closely with NTNU and NordNatech in advancing excellence in research, innovation, and capacity development.

Yours Sincerely,



Professor Abiodun Ogundeji
Director, Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa,
University of the Free State, South Africa