

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

**CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY, RISK ASSESSMENT, ADAPTATION
AND MITIGATION**

Between

**THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND METEOROLOGY OF THE
KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

and

**THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, LAND AND SEA
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY**

The Ministry of Energy and Meteorology of the Kingdom of Lesotho

and

The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy

hereafter referred to as “the Signatories”,

RECALLING that the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of Italy are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to the Kyoto Protocol;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Decisions 1/CP.16 and 9-15/CP.19 of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC which provides a framework for Parties undertaking actions relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Decisions 1/CP.19 and 1/CP.20 of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC which advance the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, according to which, *inter alia* all Parties are invited to identify and communicate their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;

EMPHASIZING that enhanced action and international cooperation on adaptation is urgently required to enable and support the implementation of adaptation actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience in developing country Parties, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable;

SUPPORTING, in this context, the initiative undertaken by the G7 Countries to stimulate the creation of effective climate risk insurance, which is designed to help cover against the negative impacts of climate change induced hazards in low and middle-income countries;

CONSIDERING that projects on renewable energies provide potential opportunities to be designed and implemented under the UNFCCC Mechanisms, and can result in an efficient contribution to sustainable development and in the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions;

Have entered into the following Memorandum:

Article 1
Objective

1.1 The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to strengthen and coordinate the efforts to combat global climate change and address its adverse effects, to support mechanisms for regional climate change vulnerability and risk assessment, to promote clean and efficient energy, to stimulate and disseminate the economic and technological transformation to low emission Development in ensuring energy security and creating adaptation actions and opportunities to protect the environment and natural resources.

Article 2
Areas of cooperation

2.1 The Signatories will cooperate, in particular, in the following areas of common interest:

- a) collection, analysis, and dissemination of meteorological data relevant to the observation of climate change and the measurement of its impact on the potentially vulnerable sectors of the region's economies, such as: agriculture, health and tourism;
- b) support to the identification, implementation and communication of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;
- c) address the drivers of deforestation and land degradation;
- d) reduction of deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
- e) enhancement of capacities for the implementation of Mechanisms under the UNFCCC and its related instruments;
- f) stimulation and dissemination of the economic and technological transformation towards low carbon development in ensuring energy security and creating adaptation actions and opportunities;
- g) promotion and development of the use of renewable energies, in order to achieve the target established by the Kingdom of Lesotho;
- h) development of public education and awareness campaigns on mitigation and adaptation to global climate change;
- i) resources sharing, technical co-operation and information exchange with other global climate change initiatives;

- j) capacity building for monitoring, reporting on climate issues, such as mitigation and adaptation;
- k) water treatment, sustainable water integrated management, river basin and hydro electrical system management;
- l) waste management.

Further areas of cooperation could be included, upon approval by the Signatories.

Article 3

Activities

3.1. The cooperation between the Parties will be conducted in the following means:

- realization of joint projects;
- capacity building, technology transfer and technical assistance;
- exchange of information and materials related to environment, including programs, publications, expertise and studies results;
- exchange of experts, delegations visits and trainees;
- joint organization of workshops, seminars or other meetings;
- reciprocal participation of experts to events and projects;
- promotion of private sector participation and activities to implement Public Private Partnership initiatives.

Any other form of cooperation agreed upon by the Parties.

Article 4

Work Plan, projects and activities

4.1 In order to ensure the efficient implementation of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding the Signatories will establish a Joint Committee under the provisions of Article 5.

4.2 Upon signature of this Memorandum, the Signatories will appoint the experts who will prepare a medium term work plan to be submitted for approval by the Joint Committee as stipulated in Article 5.

4.4 In the implementation of the programs, projects and activities consideration will be given to the participation of the public, private and non-profit sectors and, including where appropriate, universities, scientific and technical research bodies and non-governmental organizations, as well as institutions on both sides.

4.5 Taking into account the legal frameworks of each of the Signatories and their national obligations, the implementation of programs, projects and activities will be based on principles of impartiality, equality, reciprocity and common interest.

Article 5

Co-ordination

5.1 The Joint Committee will be composed by two representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Meteorology of the Kingdom of Lesotho and two representatives from the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea.

5.2 The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea will be represented by the Director General of the Directorate for “*Sustainable Development, Environmental Damage, European Union and International Affairs*” and one expert.

The Ministry of Energy and Meteorology of the Kingdom of Lesotho will be represented by the Permanent Secretary and one expert.

5.3 The Joint Committee will provide general direction and advise of cooperation, approve work programs, supervise and support the cooperation activities, take financial decision for the activities.

5.4 During its first meeting, the Joint Committee will:

- adopt rules and procedures and establish the frequency of the meetings;
- approve the medium term work plan, including projects and activities, as applicable.

In the subsequent meetings the Joint Committee will:

- co-ordinate the implementation of the co-operation in the areas specified in Article 2;
- systematically review and assess the status, progress, results achieved, and lessons learned of the co-operation activities;

The Joint Committee will meet within six months after the signature of the present Memorandum.

Article 6

Means of implementation

6.1 The Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy will finance the implementation of the projects under this Memorandum in an amount not exceeding 2 (two) Million Euro.

6.2 The Signatories will jointly submit project proposals to various multilateral organizations, inter alia: the European Commission, the International Financial Institutions, the United Nations organizations, World Bank, to assist to the Kingdom of Lesotho to fulfill its commitments under the UNFCCC and its instruments.

Article 7

Contributions

7.1 Subject to Article 6, any financial resources regarding programs, activities, and projects under this Memorandum will be borne by the Signatories, without any financial responsibility by the respective Central Governments.

7.2 The Signatories will agree on the financial coverage for the activities and establish a mechanism, under the provisions of the respective national law, for granting transparency of expenditures, accounting and audit.

7.3 The Signatories agree that all the financial resources allocated by the Italian Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea to the programs, projects and activities developed under the provisions of this Memorandum are not liable to tax, in accordance with the legislation of the Kingdom of Lesotho and international law provisions.

Article 8

Law in force

8.1 This Memorandum will not affect or prevent rights and obligations of the Signatories Parties to third Parties.

8.2 This Memorandum will be implemented in conformity with international law principles, international Conventions and Protocols signed by the Signatories, as well as with any other obligations arising from the membership of the Republic of Italy in the European Union.

Article 9

Final Provisions

9.1 The present Memorandum becomes effective on the date of signing and will remain effective for five years (5 years), unless one of the Signatories notifies the other in writing, at least six months in advance, of its intention to terminate it.

9.2 The provisions of this Memorandum may be amended by written agreement between the Signatories.

9.3 Any dispute arising from interpretation and implementation of this Memorandum will be solved by the Parties directly through consultations.

9.4 Termination of the present Memorandum will have no effect on ongoing co-operation projects, and / or on initiatives already agreed upon by the Signatories.

Done at New York on 21st April 2016 in three originals copies, in English and Italian languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text will prevail.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and
International Relations

Kingdom of Lesotho

HON. TLOHANG SEKHAMANE

Minister for the Environment, Land and Sea of
the Republic of Italy

HON. GIAN LUCA GALLETTI