

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

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

Between

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

and

**THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
OF THE STATE OF QATAR**

The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Environment, of the State of Qatar

hereinafter referred to as “the Signatories”,

BEING AWARE of the global natures of environmental issues, the urgency to find a lasting and effective solution in addressing these issues through international cooperation and the importance of coordinating the joint activities of the two Countries;

CONVINCED that cooperation between the two Parties in climate change issues is of mutual benefit and will promote the development of the friendly relationships between the two Countries;

EMPHASIZING that enhanced action and international cooperation on climate change is urgently needed to enable and support the implementation of actions aimed at dealing with impacts of climate change in order to promote sustainable development;

BEING AWARE of the importance of ensuring environmental sustainability for the present and future generations;

RESPECTING AND UPHOLDING the Protocols and International Conventions on Environment where both of the States are Parties;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Objective

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to strengthen and coordinate the cooperation to deal with impacts of climate change, to support efforts at national level on climate change vulnerability and risk assessment, promote clean and efficient energy stimulate and disseminate the economic and technological transformation to low emission, ensuring energy sustainability and creating adaptation actions and opportunities to protect the environment and natural resources.

Article 2

Areas of cooperation

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

1. Capacity building for monitoring, reporting on climate issues, such as mitigation and adaptation;
2. Address the drivers of land degradation;
3. Stimulation and dissemination of the economic diversification and technological transformation towards low GHG development in ensuring energy sustainability and creating adaptation actions and opportunities;
4. Development of public awareness campaigns on mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
5. Resources sharing, technical co-operation and information exchange ;
6. Encourage renewable energy use, promote energy efficiency and capacity building for a renewable energy workforce this to be in collaboration with the concerned authorities in the country;
7. Any further areas of cooperation could be included, upon approval by the Parties.

Article 3

Activities

The cooperation between the Signatories will be conducted in the following means:

1. Proposals of joint projects to be submitted to national and international funds;
2. Capacity building, technology transfer and technical assistance;
3. Exchange of information and materials, including programs, publications, expertise and studies results;
4. Exchange of experts, delegations visits and trainees;
5. Joint organization of workshops, seminars or other meetings;
6. Reciprocal participation of experts to events and projects;
7. Promotion of private sector participation and activities to implement Public Private Partnership initiatives.
8. Any other form of cooperation agreed upon by the Parties.

Article 4

Work Plan, projects and activities

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 Art.5.

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 Art.5 of this Memorandum of Understanding.

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, as well as institutions on both sides.

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

Joint Committee

The Joint Committee will be composed by two (2) representatives from the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and two (2) representatives from the Ministry of Environment of the State of Qatar.

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 Environment of the State of Qatar will be represented by the Assistant Undersecretary for Environment Affair and one expert

The Joint Committee will provide general direction and advice on cooperation, approve work programs, supervise and support the cooperation activities, take financial decision for the activities:

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 entry into force of the present Memorandum as set out in Art. (10) of this Memorandum of Understanding, date and location of the meetings will be determined by agreement between the two Parties.

Article 6

Expenses & Financial Contributions

Any costs regarding the subject matter, as programs, activities, and projects under this Memorandum will be borne by the Signatories, in conformity with their national Budget legislation.

The activities as for provided by the present Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented according to funds available in the respective budget of the two Parties, without additional costs to be borne by the State budget, upon approval by both Parties.

Article 7

Law in force

This Memorandum will not affect or prevent rights and obligations of the Parties arising from the agreement with third Parties.

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 Italian Republic in the European Union.

Article 8

Settlement of Disputes

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

Article 9
Amendments

Provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding, or any of its texts, may be amended by written agreement between the Signatories, according to the procedures stipulated in par.1 of Art. 10, concerning its entry into effect.

Article 10

Entry into effect, validity and termination

This MOU will produce its effects on the date of the receipt of the last written notification by which the Qatari side informs the Italian side of the completion of necessary domestic procedures required for its effectiveness. This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain valid for five (5) years, and shall automatically be extended for successive similar periods unless one of the Parties notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate it, at least six (6) months prior to its termination or expiration.

The termination or expiration of this Memorandum will have no effect on ongoing cooperation projects and/ or initiatives already agreed upon by the Signatories until its completion unless they agree otherwise.

In witness whereof the undersigned being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments signed this Memorandum.

Done and signed in the city of Rome on 28th January 2016 corresponding to 18/04/1437 AH in three (3) original copies, in Italian, Arabic and English, languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Ministry for the Environment, Land and
Sea of the Italian Republic

For the Ministry of Environment
of the State of Qatar