

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**on**

**COOPERATION 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 AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION**

**of GEORGIA**

**The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia**, hereafter referred to as “the Parties”,

**CONSIDERING** that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the resolution n. A/RES/70/1, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*;

**RECALLING** that the Italian Republic and Georgia are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to the Kyoto Protocol;

**RECALLING** that the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the UNFCCC has adopted the Paris Agreement to combat climate change and that the Governments of the Italian Republic and Georgia have signed the above Agreement on April 22, 2016;

**EMPHASIZING** that the Paris Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that in September 2015 Georgia submitted the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC;

**EMPHASIZING** that enhanced action and international cooperation on mitigation and adaptation is urgently required to enable and support the implementation of actions aimed at reducing the emissions and the vulnerability and building climate resilience;

**CONSIDERING** that projects on renewable energy provide potential opportunities to be designed and implemented under the UNFCCC Mechanisms and possibly also under the Paris Agreement cooperative mechanism, and can result in an efficient contribution to sustainable development and in the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions;

**CONSIDERING** that Green Economy is recognized as a regional priority in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) area and that building resilience, safety and prosperity can help enhance environmental awareness and quality as well as human well-being;

Have agreed as follows:

## **Article 1**

### **Objective**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding, within the competences of the Parties, 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 emissions, to ensure energy security, to implement adaptation actions and opportunities to protect the environment and natural resources in Georgia.

## **Article 2**

### **Areas of cooperation**

The Parties 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) implementation, monitoring, reporting and communication of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
- c) reduction of deforestation and forest degradation, sustainable management of forests, enhancement of forest carbon stocks and forest waste recycling for production of bio-energy;
- d) enhancement of capacities for the implementation of Mechanisms under the UNFCCC and its related instruments;
- e) protection of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources;
- f) stimulation and dissemination of the economic and technological transformation towards low carbon economy and green economy;
- g) promotion of energy efficiency and development of the use of renewable energy;
- h) capacity building for climate change adaptation at national and local levels;
- i) development of public education and awareness campaigns on mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
- j) monitoring of air quality;
- k) integrated management of maritime and coastal areas;
- l) integrated water management;
- m) sustainable management of protected areas;
- n) sustainable waste management;
- o) establishing of early warning system for natural hazards;
- p) sustainable land management;
- q) promotion of sustainable tourism.

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

### **Article 3**

#### **Activities**

The cooperation between the Parties will be conducted in the following activities:

- a) realization of joint projects;
- b) capacity building, technology transfer and technical assistance;
- c) exchange of information and documents related to the environment, including programs, publications, expertise and study results;
- d) exchange of experts and trainees, organization of delegation visits;
- e) joint organization of workshops, seminars or other meetings;
- f) promotion of private sector participation and activities to implement Public Private Partnership;
- g) enhancement of cooperation with the non-governmental organizations with regard to programs and initiatives in the field of environment and sustainable development;
- h) development of fundraising capacities with regard to global climate and sustainable development.

Further activities of cooperation could be included upon approval by the Parties.

### **Article 4**

#### **Coordination**

4.1 In order to ensure the efficient implementation of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding the Parties will establish a Joint Committee.

4.2 The Joint Committee will be composed by two (2) representatives from the Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea of the Italian Republic and two (2) representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia.

4.3 The Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea of the Italian Republic will be represented by the Director General of the Directorate for Sustainable Development, Environmental Damage, European Union and International Affairs and one (1) expert.

4.4 The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia will be represented by the Deputy Minister and one (1) expert.

4.5 The Joint Committee will provide general direction and guidance on cooperation, approve the Work Plan, supervise and support the cooperation activities and take financial decisions.

4.6 During its first meeting, the Joint Committee will adopt its Rules of Procedure, approve the Work Plan and establish the frequency of its meetings.

4.7 In the subsequent meetings the Joint Committee will:

- a) coordinate the implementation of the activities in the areas specified in Article 2;
- b) approve detailed activities and projects, including project budget and schedule, to be implemented and financed under the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding;
- c) systematically review and assess the status, progress, results achieved, and lessons learned of the cooperation activities.

4.8 The Joint Committee will meet within six (6) months after the signature of this Memorandum of Understanding.

## **Article 5**

### **Work Plan, Projects and Activities**

5.1 Upon signature of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties 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 4.5.

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

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

## **Article 6**

### **Means of implementation**

6.1 Unless otherwise is agreed, any costs regarding the subject matter including the programs, activities, and projects under the present Memorandum of Understanding will be borne by the Parties, as advised by the Joint Committee and in conformity with the respective national legislation.

6.2 Such costs will be met with the available budget resources of the Parties and will not in any event create additional expenditures for the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of Georgia.

6.3 The Parties will jointly submit project proposals to various international organizations and EU Institutions (*inter alia*, the European Commission, the United Nations organizations, the International Financial Institutions, World Bank, etc.), to assist the Government of Georgia to fulfil its commitments under

the UNFCCC and its instruments.

**Article 7**  
**Contributions**

7.1 The Parties will agree on the financial coverage for the activities and establish a mechanism, under the provisions of the respective national legislation, to grant transparency of expenditures, accounting and audit.

7.2 The Parties agree that all the financial resources allocated by the Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea of the Italian Republic to the programs, projects and activities developed under the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be subject to the relevant provisions of the legislation of Georgia with regard to taxation and subsequent rebates.

**Article 8**  
**Law in force**

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

8.2 This Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented in conformity with principles of international law, Multilateral Environmental Agreements to which the Italian Republic and Georgia are Parties, national legislation of both Countries, as well as with any other obligations arising from the membership of the Italian Republic in the European Union.

**Article 9**  
**Final Provisions**

9.1 The present Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect on the date of the signature, and will remain effective for five (5) years, and shall automatically be extended for further five-year periods. Each Party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving a written notice of termination to the other Party through diplomatic channels. In such case, this Memorandum of Understanding shall expire 6 months after the date of the receipt of the termination notice by the other Party.

9.2 Amendments and additions may be introduced to the Memorandum of Understanding upon mutual consent of the Parties, which shall be formed as a separate document and take effect in accordance with Paragraph 1 of this Article. The document formed thereby, shall constitute an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

9.3 Any dispute regarding the application or interpretation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be resolved between the Parties by means of consultations and/or negotiations.

9.4 Termination of the present Memorandum of Understanding will have no effect on ongoing cooperation

projects, and/or on initiatives already agreed upon by the Parties.

Done in Bonn, Germany on 15 November 2017, in two (2) original copies, each in the Italian, Georgian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text will prevail.

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

**For the Ministry of Environment and Natural  
Resources Protection of Georgia**

Director General for Sustainable Development,  
Environmental Damage, European Union and  
International Affairs

Francesco La Camera

Deputy Minister

Ekaterine Grigalava

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