

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 REPUBLIC OF ITALY**

And

**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES REPRESENTED BY
THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY**

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

and

The Ministry of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Maldives

hereafter referred to as “the Signatories”,

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

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 such as the Republic of Maldives 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 and sea-level 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) identification and communication of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;
- c) assessment and support of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;
- d) enhancement of capacities for the implementation of Mechanisms under the UNFCCC and its related instruments;
- e) elaboration of regional policies and special programs for coastal zone management, disaster management, impact assessment and community level mitigation and adaptation measures;
- f) stimulation and disseminate the economic and technological transformation to low emission 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 Government of Maldives;
- h) water treatment, including water desalinization;
- i) waste management;
- j) development of public education and awareness campaigns on mitigation and adaptation to global climate change;
- k) resources sharing, technical co-operation and information exchange with other global climate change initiatives, in particular in Small Island Developing States.

- 1) development of capacities for regional research activities, including impact and adaptation modeling.

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

Article 3

Work Plan, projects and activities

3.1 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 4.

3.2 Upon signature of this Memorandum, the Signatories shall 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 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 4

Co-ordination

4.1 The Joint Committee will be composed by two representatives from the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and two from the Maldivian Ministry of Environment and Energy.

4.2 The Italian Ministry of 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 Maldivian Ministry of Environment and Energy will be represented by the Director General of Climate Change and one expert.

4.3 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.

4.4 During its first meeting, the Joint Committee shall:

- 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 shall:

- 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 5

Means of implementation

5.1 The Ministry for the Environment and Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy will finance the implementation of the projects under this Memorandum in an amount not exceeding 4 Million Euro.

5.2 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 Republic of Maldives to fulfill its commitments under the UNFCCC and its instruments.

Article 6

Contributions

6.1 Subject to Article 5, any financial resources regarding programs, activities, and projects under this Memorandum will be borne by the Signatories.

6.2 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.

6.3 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 liable to tax exemption, in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Maldives.

Article 7 **Law in force**

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

7.2 This Memorandum shall 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 8 **Dispute Settlement**

8.1 The parties shall settle amicably through direct negotiations, any dispute, controversy, or claim arising out of or relating to the present Agreement, including breach and termination of the Agreement.

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

Done in Paris, on December 9th 2015 in three originals copies, in the English and Italian languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text will prevail and will be used for any dispute and arbitration between the Signatories.

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

Director General

Dr. Francesco La Camera

For the Government of the Republic of
Maldives

Minister

Thoriq Ibrahim
