

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 THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY**

The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Paraguay, hereafter referred to as “the Signatories”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Italian Republic and the Republic of Paraguay are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to the Kyoto Protocol, and have signed the Paris Agreement on April 22nd, 2016;

RECALLING that the 21st Meeting of the Parties to the UNFCCC has adopted the Paris Agreement to combat climate change and that this Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016;

EMPHASIZING that the Paris Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the UNFCCC, 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 the Decisions 1/CP.16, 9-15/CP.19, 17/CP.21 and 18/CP.21 of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, which provide a framework for undertaking actions aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), promoting sustainable forest management and enhancing forest carbon stocks;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, and Decisions 1/CP.19, 1/CP.20 and 1/CP.21 of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, which invite all Parties to identify and communicate their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;

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 greenhouse gas emissions and climate change vulnerability and building resilience;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that renewable energy projects offer potential opportunities to be designed and implemented under the UNFCCC Mechanisms and possibly also under the cooperation mechanism of the Paris Agreement and can contribute effectively to sustainable development and to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;

Have agreed the following Memorandum of Understanding:

Article 1

Objective

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding, within the competences of the Signatories, is to strengthen and coordinate the efforts to combat global climate change and address its adverse effects, to support mechanisms to reduce climate change vulnerability and enhance risk assessment, to promote secure, clean and efficient energy and to stimulate the transition towards a sustainable low-carbon economy through the implement of adaptation actions and opportunities to protect the environment and natural resources.

Article 2

Areas of cooperation

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

- a) collection, analysis and dissemination of data relevant to the observation of climate change and the measurement of its impacts on the potentially vulnerable economic sectors including strengthening of the early warning system and the risk assessment;
- b) support for implementation, monitoring, reporting and communication of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
- c) sustainable management of forests including reduction of deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), support to reforestation and afforestation programs providing the enhancement of forest carbon stocks;
- d) promotion of sustainable integrated water management;
- e) promotion and development of renewable energies (solar, wind and biomass);
- f) biodiversity preservation and reduction of environmental degradation;
- g) promotion of sustainable crop and livestock production practices for greater food security and greenhouse gas emissions reduction, also through the application of the climate-smart agriculture approach (CSA);
- h) exchange of human resources, technical cooperation and information with other global climate change initiatives;
- i) stimulation and dissemination of the economic and technological transformation for low-carbon, sustainable development.

Further areas of cooperation, within the limits of this Memorandum, will be included upon approval by the Signatories.

Article 3

Activities

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

- realization of joint projects;
- capacity building, technology transfer and technical assistance;
- exchange of information and documents related to environment, including programs, publications, expertise and study results;
- exchange of experts and trainees, organization of delegation visits;
- joint organization of workshops, seminars and other meetings;
- promotion of private sector participation and activities to implement Public Private Partnerships;
- enhancement of cooperation with non-governmental organizations with regard to programs and initiatives in the field of environment and sustainable development;
- enhancement of public education and awareness campaigns on measures for adaptation to climate change;
- development of fund raising capacities with regard to global climate change and sustainable development.

Further activities of cooperation, within the limits of this Memorandum, will be included upon approval by the Signatories.

Article 4

Coordination

4.1. In order to ensure the efficient implementation of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Signatories 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 the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Paraguay.

4.3. 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 (1) expert.

4.4. The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Paraguay will be represented by the National Directorate of Climate Change of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Paraguay, and one (1) expert.

4.5. The Joint Committee will provide general direction and guidance for the cooperation activities, approve the work plan, supervise and support the cooperation activities and take financial decision.

4.6 During its first meeting, the Joint Committee will adopt the following framework documents:

- *Rules of Procedure;*
- *Financial Document;*
- *Guiding Principles for Bilateral Cooperation Mechanism.*

The Joint Committee will also establish the frequency of the meetings and approve the *Medium term Work Plan*, including projects and activities, as applicable.

4.7. In the subsequent meetings, the Joint Committee will:

- approve detailed activities and projects, including project budget and schedule, to be implemented and financed, under the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding;
- coordinate the implementation of the activities in the areas specified in Article 2;
- 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 the present Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 5

Work plan, projects and activities

5.1. Upon signature of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Signatories will appoint the experts who will prepare a Medium term Work Plan identifying sectors of intervention, to be submitted to the Joint Committee for approval, as stipulated in Article 4.5.

5.2. In the implementation of 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, non-governmental organizations, as well as institutions on both sides.

5.3. Taking into account the legal framework of each of the Signatories and their respective 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. The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic will co-finance the implementation of the projects and activities under this Memorandum of Understanding in an amount not exceeding € 2.000.000 (two million euro).

6.2. The contribution from the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Paraguay will be decided at a later stage and notified to the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic during the first meeting of the Joint Committee.

6.3. The Signatories will jointly submit project proposals to various multilateral organizations (*inter alia* the European Commission, the International Financial Institutions, the United Nations organization, the World Bank Group), in order to assist the Republic of Paraguay to fulfill its commitments under the UNFCCC and its instruments.

6.4. Wherever there is a need to increase the global amount set in Article 6.1., IMELS may decide to grant additional financing. Should it take such a decision, IMELS will inform the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Paraguay about the additional amount provided, in the occasion of the Joint Committee. Funds will be issued according to the same terms and conditions set out in the Financial Agreement.

Article 7

Contributions

7.1. Any costs regarding the subject matter including the programs, activities, and projects under this Memorandum of Understanding will be borne by the Signatories as advised by the Joint Committee and in conformity with their respective national legislation. Such costs will be met with the available budgeted resources of the

Signatories and will not, in any event, create additional expenditures for the Government of Paraguay and the Government of Italy.

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

7.3. The Signatories will agree that all the financial resources allocated by the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic to the programs, activities and projects, developed under the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding, are not liable to tax, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Paraguay or any other applicable law.

Article 8

Law in force

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

8.2. This Memorandum of Understanding will not generate binding legal obligations for the Signatories or for their respective States within the framework of International Law.

8.3. This Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented in conformity with applicable international law, the national legislations of Paraguay and Italy and the obligations arising from Paraguay's membership of the Organization of American States and Italy's membership of the European Union.

Article 9

Final Provisions

9.1. The present Memorandum of Understanding becomes effective on the date of the signature and will remain effective for five (5) years, unless one of the Signatories notifies the other in writing, at least six (6) months in advance, of its intention to terminate it.

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

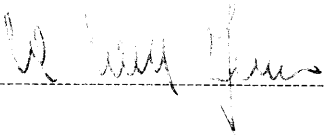
9.3. Any dispute arising from interpretation and implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be solved by the Signatories amicably through consultation or negotiations between the Signatories.

9.4. Termination of the present Memorandum of Understanding will have no effect on ongoing cooperation projects and initiatives already agreed upon by the Signatories.

Done in ROME....., on NOV. 8th, 2018, in two (2) originals, each in English, Italian and Spanish languages. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English version will prevail.

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

Francesco La Camera

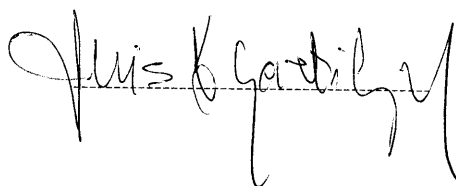


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**For the Ministry of the Environment and
Sustainable Development of the Republic of
Paraguay**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs

Luis Alberto Castiglioni



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