

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 NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

**the Ministry for the Environment and Land and Sea
of the Italian Republic,
and
The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**

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 the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to the Kyoto Protocol;

RECALLING that the 21st Meeting of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has adopted the Paris Agreement to combat climate change and that the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam have signed the above Agreement on April 22nd, 2016;

EMPHASIZING that the Paris Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 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;

NOTING the Protocol on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Italian Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, done at Hanoi on January 5th, 1992;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that in September 2015 the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam presented “National Determined Contributions” under the UNFCCC;

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;

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 at building resilience;

CONSIDERING that the Italian Development Cooperation by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is active in Viet Nam with a cooperation programme consisting of several initiatives to support the sustainable development of the country and it is dedicating remarkable efforts in tackling climate change impacts,

Have entered into the following Memorandum of Understanding:

Article 1

Objective

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding, within the competence 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, and to coordinate the efforts of adaptation to the global climate change, promoting measures and techniques aimed to protect the environment and natural resources and to enhance the regional and local resilience in Viet Nam.

Article 2

Areas of cooperation

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

1. implementation, monitoring, reporting and communication of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
2. adaptation to climate change, with particular focus on water resources and coastal zone management,

3. adaptation to the water-related vulnerability and susceptibility, with particular attention to measures to protect against seasonal water shortages and saltwater intrusion,
4. strengthening early warning capacity with the aim to enhance the capacities in preventing and controlling drought and saltwater intrusion,
5. enhancement of capacities for the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure;
6. capacity building, technology transfer and financing for climate change adaptation
7. environment protection and sustainable waste management;
8. enhancement of capacities for the implementation of mechanisms under the UNFCCC and its related instruments;
9. development of public education and awareness campaigns on mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
10. resources sharing, technical co-operation and information exchange with other global climate change initiatives;
11. capacity building for monitoring and reporting on climate issues, such as mitigation and adaptation.

Further areas of cooperation, within the scope and limits of this Memorandum, can be included upon approval of the Parties.

Article 3 **Activities**

The cooperation between the Parties will be conducted by the following means:

1. implementation of joint projects;
2. capacity building, technology transfer and technical assistance;
3. exchange of information and documents related to the environment including programs, publications, expertise and study results;
4. exchange of experts and trainees, organization of delegations visits;

5. joint organisation of workshops, seminars and other meetings;
6. promotion of private sector participation and activities to implement Public Private Partnership initiatives;
7. enhancement of cooperation with the non-governmental organizations with regard to important programs and initiatives in the field of environment and sustainable development; and
8. development of fund raising capacities with regard to global climate change and sustainable development.

Further activities of cooperation, within the scope and limits of this Memorandum, will be included upon approval of the Parties.

Article 4 Coordination

1. In order to ensure the efficient implementation of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties will establish a Joint Committee under the provision of Article 5.
2. The Joint Committee will be composed by two representatives from the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and two representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.
3. The Ministry of 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. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam will be represented by the Director General of the Department for International Cooperation and one (1) expert.
5. The Joint Committee will provide general guidance and advise on cooperation, approve work programs, supervise and support cooperation activities and take financial decisions.
6. During the first meeting, the Joint Committee will adopt rules and procedures, such as:
 - *Rules of Procedure* to which the *Financial Agreement* will be attached as an annex; and

- *Guiding Principles for the Bilateral Cooperation Mechanism.*

The Joint Committee will establish the frequency of the meetings and approve the medium term work plan including projects and activities as applicable.

7. In the subsequent meetings the Joint Committee will:
 - coordinate the implementation of the cooperation projects in the areas specified in Article 2;
 - systematically review and assess the status, progress, results achieved, and lessons learned of the cooperation activities;
8. The Joint Committee will meet within six (6) months from the signature of the present Memorandum.

Article 5

Work Plan, projects and activities

1. Upon signature of this Memorandum, the Parties will appoint the experts who will prepare a medium term work plan to be submitted for approval to the Joint Committee in accordance with Article 4.5.
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 and, where appropriate, universities, scientific and technical research bodies and non-governmental organizations, as well as institutions from both sides.
3. Taking into account their national legal frameworks and the treaties to which the Italian Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam are parties, the implementation of programs, projects and activities will be based on principles of impartiality, equality, reciprocity and common interest.

Article 6

Means of implementation

1. Any cost regarding programs, activities, and projects under this Memorandum of Understanding will be borne by the Parties as advised by the Joint Committee and in conformity with their respective national legislations.

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 State budgets of the Italian Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.
3. The Parties will jointly submit project proposals to various multilateral organizations and EU Institutions (*inter alia*: the European Union, the International Financial Institutions, the United Nations organizations, World Bank, etc.), to assist to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to fulfill its commitments under the UNFCCC and its instruments.

Article 7

Contributions

1. The Parties will reach an understanding on the financial coverage for the activities and establish a mechanism, under the provisions of their respective national legislations, to grant transparency of expenditure, accounting and auditing.
2. All 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 will be subject to the relevant provisions of the legislation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam with regard to taxation and subsequent rebates.

Article 8

Law in force

1. This Memorandum will not affect or prevent rights and obligations of the Parties to third parties.
2. This Memorandum will be implemented in conformity with applicable international law, the national legislations of the Italian Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, as well as with any other obligation arising from the membership of the Italian Republic in the European Union.
3. This Memorandum does not constitute an international agreement which may lead to obligations under international law.

Article 9
Final Provisions

1. The present Memorandum of Understanding takes effect on the date of signature and will remain valid for five (5) years, unless one of the Parties notifies the other in writing, at least six (6) months in advance, of its intention to terminate it.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding is extended automatically for successive periods of five (5) years, unless one of the Parties notifies the other in writing, at least six (6) months before its expiry date, of its intention to terminate it.
3. The provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding may be amended in writing by the Parties.
4. Any difference in the interpretation and/or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be solved through direct consultations and negotiations between the Parties.
5. 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 at Hanoi on 05/06/2018 in two originals in English.

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

Francesco La Camera

For the Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment of the Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam

Le Cong Thanh