

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

**COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CLIMATE CHANGE
VULNERABILITY, RISK ASSESSMENT, ADAPTATION AND
MITIGATION**

between

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

and

**THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, hereafter referred to as “the Parties”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry for the Environment and Territory of the Italian Republic and the Ministry for Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the Republic of Serbia on Environmental Protection Cooperation, done at Johannesburg on September 3 2002;

DESIRING to further enhance their cooperation in the field of climate change vulnerability, risk assessment, adaptation and mitigation;

RECALLING that the Italian Republic and the Republic of Serbia are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to the Kyoto Protocol, and to the Paris Agreement to combat climate change;

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 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;

EMPHASIZING the importance of international cooperation on development and on the fight against climate change for candidate Countries for EU accession, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of those developing Countries that are particularly vulnerable;

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 the Decision XIII/4 adopted on its 13th Meeting by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which recognizes

that cooperation among the biodiversity, climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster reduction communities results in a greater ability to design interventions that deliver multiple benefits;

Have entered into the following Memorandum of Understanding:

Article 1

Objective

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding, is to strengthen and coordinate, within the competences of the Parties, 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, to stimulate the transition towards a sustainable low-carbon economy and to implement 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:

- a) collection, analysis and dissemination of meteorological and hydrological data relevant to the observation of climate change and the measurement of its impact on the potentially vulnerable economic sectors;
- b) implementation, monitoring, reporting and communication of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
- c) promotion of measures to strengthen capacities and enhance the efforts of the local communities and regions to combat global climate change and address its adverse effects and to join to the Covenant of Mayors initiative;
- d) promotion of measures to enhance vulnerable biodiversity ecosystems, preservation and promotion of integration of climate change adaptation best practices, strategies and methodologies into conservation planning frameworks, in consideration of species and ecosystems responses, and vulnerability to past and future anthropogenic climate change;
- e) reduction of deforestation and forest degradation, enhancement of forest carbon stocks and sustainable management of forests and the wood supply chain;
- f) improvement of sustainable integrated water management, in line with EU Directives 2000/60 and 2007/60;

- g) promotion and development of renewable energies in order to achieve the target established by the Republic of Serbia;
- h) sustainable waste management;

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

Article 3

Activities

The cooperation between the Parties will be conducted by 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 local communities, non-governmental organizations and civil society with regard to programs and initiatives in the field of environment, climate change and sustainable development;
- enhancement of public education and awareness campaigns on measures for mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
- development of fund raising capacities with regard to global climate resilience and sustainable development.

Further cooperation activities, within the limits of this Memorandum of Understanding, will 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 Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia.

4.3 The Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia will be represented by *Assistant Minister responsible for climate change* and one (1) expert.

4.4 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.

4.5 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 decisions.

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.

Implementation of projects and activities will be determined by the Parties to the meetings of the Joint Committee and will be subject to the Memorandum of Understanding.

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 Parties 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 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, non-governmental organizations, as well as institutions of the respective Countries.

5.3 Taking into account the legal framework of each of the Parties 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 contribution from the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia will be decided at a later stage and notified to the other Party during the first meeting of the Joint Committee or the following technical meetings.

6.2 The Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea of the Italian Republic will co-finance the implementation of the projects under this Memorandum of Understanding in an amount that will be decided at a later stage, and notified to the other Party during the first meeting of the Joint Committee or the following technical meetings.

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

Article 7

Contributions

7.1 Any costs regarding the 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 legislation. Such costs will be met with the available budgeted resources of the Parties and will not, in any event, create additional

expenditures for the Government of the Italian Republic and/or the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

7.2 The Parties 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.

7.3 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, 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 Serbia.

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 full compliance with the respective national legislations and in conformity with applicable international law, including, as for the Italian Party, the obligations arising from Italy's membership of the European Union.

Article 9

Final Provisions

9.1 This Memorandum takes effect on the date of signature. It will remain valid for a period of five (5) years and will be automatically renewed for another period of five (5) years, unless either Party notifies the other Party in writing of its intention to denounce the Memorandum, but not later than three (3) months before the expiration of the initial period of five (5) years.

9.2 The provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding may be amended in writing by mutual consent of the Parties.

9.3 Any difference in the interpretation and implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled amicably through direct consultations or negotiations between the Parties.

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

9.5 The provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Protection Cooperation done at Johannesburg on September 3 2002 regarding issues that are not dealt with by this Memorandum will continue to be valid.

Done in Belgrade , on September 6 2019, in two (2) originals, each in the English language.

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

**For the Ministry of Environmental Protection
of the Republic of Serbia**
