

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 REPUBLIC OF ITALY**

AND

**THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA**

The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy
and
the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of the Republic of Cuba

hereafter referred to as “the Signatories”,

RECALLING that the 21st Meeting of the Signatories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the Paris Agreement to combat climate change, and that referred Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016;

RECALLING that the Republic of Italy and the Republic of Cuba are Signatories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement;

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, including by:

- Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
- Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and sustainable development, in a manner that does not threaten food production;
- Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards climate-resilient development and low greenhouse gas emissions;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Decisions 1/CP.16, 9-15/CP.19, 17/CP.21 and 18/CP.21 of the Conference of the Signatories to the UNFCCC which provides a framework for Signatories undertaking actions relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+);

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 Signatories to the UNFCCC which invites all Signatories to identify and communicate their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs, in English);

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 energies 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;

Have entered into the following Memorandum:

Article 1

Objective

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding, hereinafter referred to as the Memorandum, is to strengthen and coordinate the efforts to combat global climate change and address its adverse effects, to support mechanisms for reducing the climate change vulnerability and to strengthen risk assessment, to promote clean and efficient energy, to stimulate and disseminate the economic and technological transformation toward sustainable 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 to both countries such as: agriculture, health and tourism;
- B. supporting the implementation, monitoring, reporting and communication of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
- C. enhancement of capacities for the implementation of Mechanisms under the UNFCCC and its related instruments;

- D. elaboration of national policies and special programs for coastal zone management, disaster management, impact assessment and community level mitigation and adaptation measures;
- E. support to engineering projects related to adaptation to climate change, particularly in the coastal zone;
- F. stimulation and disseminate the economic and technological transformation to low emission development in ensuring energy security and creating adaptation actions and opportunities;
- G. promoting and development of the use of renewable energies, in order to achieve the target established by both countries in their NDCs;
- H. water treatment, including water desalinization;
- I. development of public education and awareness campaigns on mitigation and adaptation to global climate change;
- J. exchange of human resources, technical cooperation and information with other global climate change initiatives with countries in the region, in particular with small island developing and Coastal States;
- K. development of capacities for regional research activities, including impact and adaptation modeling.

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

Article 3

Coordination

3.1 In order to ensure the efficient implementation of the provisions of this Memorandum, the Signatories will establish a Joint Committee composed by two representatives from the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and two from the Cuban Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment.

3.2 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.

3.3 The Cuban Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment will be represented by the Director of International Affairs and one expert.

3.4 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.

3.5 During its first meeting, the Joint Committee shall adopt the following framework documents:

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

In the subsequent meetings the Joint Committee shall:

- approve detailed activities and projects, including project budget and schedule, to be implemented and financed, under the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding
- 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 4

Work Plan, projects and activities

4.1 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 3.4.

4.2 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, including where appropriate, universities, scientific and technical research bodies and non-governmental organizations, as well as institutions on both sides.

4.4 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 5

Means of implementation

5.1 The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy will co-finance the implementation of the projects and activities under this Memorandum in an amount not exceeding EUR 2 Million (two million euros).

5.2 The contribution from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of the Republic of Cuba will be decided at a later stage and notified to the other Signatory during the first meeting of the Joint Committee.

5.3 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 Cuba to fulfill its commitments under the UNFCCC and its instruments.

Article 6

Contributions

6.1 Any costs regarding the subject matter including the programs, activities, and projects under this Memorandum 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 Cuba and the Government of Italy.

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

6.3 The Signatories 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 Cuba or any other applicable law.

Article 7

Law in force

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

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

Intellectual property

8.1 The Signatories agree that the specific projects signed to carry out the cooperation activities will reflect the terms and conditions to be agreed regarding the authorization of

use and respect for pre-existing intellectual property, as well as those concerning protection of the results jointly obtained, by means of some form of intellectual property protection, in accordance with the Signatories' national legislations.

8.2 The Signatories shall ensure that participants in cooperation activities, without prejudice to what is established in the specific projects, shall maintain due confidentiality of the joint results including the interdiction to publish the results before a writing agreement has been reached, the text of the publication has been agreed upon taking into consideration the right of the authors to be mentioned, and the appropriate protection modality of the results has been decided together.

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). The validity period shall be extended for similar periods if the Signatories request so in writing. Each Signatory may terminate this Memorandum at any time six months before informing the other Signatory.

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

Signed in Havana, on July 14th, in two original copies for each language, Italian, Spanish and English, 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 Republic of Italy**

**Dr. Francesco La Camera
Director General**

**For the Ministry of Science,
Technology and Environment of the
Republic of Cuba**

**Dr. America Santos Riviera
Vice Minister**