

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 STATE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

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The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic and the State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”,

CONSIDERING that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution n. A/RES/70/1, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*;

RECALLING that the Italian Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan 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 UNFCCC adopted the Paris Agreement to combat climate change and that the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed the above Agreement on April 22, 2016;

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;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that in April 2017 the Republic of Uzbekistan submitted its respective Intended Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC;

EMPHASIZING that enhanced action and international cooperation on mitigation and adaptation is 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 energy, implemented under the UNFCCC Mechanisms and possibly also under the Paris Agreement cooperative mechanism, can result in an efficient contribution to sustainable development and in the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions;

CONSIDERING that Green Economy is recognized as a regional priority by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and that building resilience, safety and prosperity can help enhance environmental awareness and quality as well as human well-being;

12/5/20

Have reached the following understanding:

Article 1 Objective

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding, within the respective competences 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, to promote clean and efficient energy, to stimulate and disseminate the economic and technological transformation to low emissions and Green Economy, to implement adaptation actions and opportunities and to protect the environment and natural resources in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 2 Areas of cooperation

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

- a) analysis of the impact of climate change on the environment and potentially vulnerable sectors of the economy;
- b) support to the implementation, monitoring and communication of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
- c) reduction of biodiversity loss, restoration of flora and fauna, processing of biological waste for bioenergy production;
- d) enhancement of capacities for the implementation of Mechanisms under the UNFCCC and related documents for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- e) sustainable use of natural resources;
- f) stimulation and dissemination of the economic and technological transformation towards low carbon economy and green economy;
- g) promotion of energy efficiency and development of the use of renewable energy;
- h) capacity building for climate change adaptation at national and local levels;
- i) development of public education and awareness campaigns on environmental protection, mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
- j) monitoring of air quality and land quality;
- k) integrated management of ecosystems in water bodies and coastal areas;
- l) sustainable management of protected areas;
- m) integrated waste management;
- n) support to the preparation and implementation of disaster risk reduction action

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- plans under the the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;
- o) sustainable land management;
 - p) promotion of sustainable tourism.

Further areas of cooperation within the scope of this Memorandum of Understanding may be included upon approval by the Parties.

Article 3 **Activities**

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

- a) realization of joint projects;
- b) capacity building, technology transfer and technical assistance;
- c) exchange of information and documents related to the environment, including programs, publications, expertise and study results;
- d) exchange of experts and trainees, organization of delegation visits;
- e) joint organization of workshops, seminars or other meetings;
- f) promotion of private sector participation and activities to develop Public-Private Partnerships;
- g) enhancement of cooperation with the non-governmental organizations with regard to programs and initiatives in the field of environment and sustainable development;
- h) development of fundraising capacities with regard to global climate and sustainable development.

Further activities of cooperation within the scope of this Memorandum of Understanding may 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 State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

4.3 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.

4.4 The State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan will be represented by the Head of International Cooperation and Projects Department and one (1) expert.

4.5 The Joint Committee will provide general direction and guidance on cooperation, approve the Work Plan, supervise and support cooperation activities and take financial decisions.

4.6 During its first meeting, the Joint Committee will adopt its Rules of Procedure, approve the Work Plan and establish the frequency of its meetings.

4.7 In the subsequent meetings the Joint Committee will:

- a) coordinate the implementation of the activities in the areas specified in Article 2;
- b) admit detailed plans of activities and projects, including project budget and schedule, which will be implemented and financed under this Memorandum of Understanding;
- c) 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 this 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 to be submitted to the Joint Committee for approval as per 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, research and technical bodies and non-governmental organizations, as well as institutions.

5.3 Taking into account the Italian and Uzbek legal frameworks, the implementation of programs, projects and activities will be based on the principles of impartiality, equality, reciprocity and common interest.

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Article 6

Means of implementation

6.1 Unless otherwise is decided, any costs regarding the subject matter including the programs, activities, and projects under the present Memorandum of Understanding will be borne by the Parties, as advised by the Joint Committee and in conformity with the respective national legislations.

6.2 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 Republic of Uzbekistan.

6.3 The Parties will jointly submit project proposals to various international organizations and EU Institutions (*inter alia*, the European Commission, the United Nations organizations, the International Financial Institutions, World Bank, etc.), to assist the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan to fulfil its commitments under the UNFCCC and its instruments.

Article 7

Contributions

7.1 The financial coverage for the activities will be jointly decided by the Parties, that will establish a mechanism, under the provisions of their respective national legislations, to grant transparency of expenditures, accounting and audit.

7.2 With regard to taxation and subsequent rebates, all the 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 Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 8

Law in force

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

8.2 This Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented in accordance with the Italian and Uzbek legislations, as well as applicable international law and the obligations arising from Italy's membership of the European Union.

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Article 9
Final Provisions

9.1 The present Memorandum of Understanding takes effect on the date of the signature, it will remain valid for five (5) years and it will automatically be extended for further five-year periods. Each Party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving a written notice of termination to the other Party. In such case, this Memorandum of Understanding will expire 6 months after the date of the receipt of the termination notice by the other Party.

9.2 Amendments and additions may be introduced to the Memorandum of Understanding upon mutual consent of the Parties. The document formed thereby will constitute an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

9.3 Any divergence regarding the interpretation and/or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled between the Parties by means of direct consultations and/or negotiations.

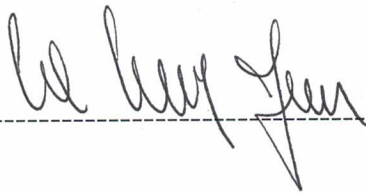
9.4 Termination of the present Memorandum of Understanding will have no effect on ongoing cooperation projects, and/or on initiatives already decided by the Parties.

Done at Tashkent, on 24 January 2019, in two (2) originals, each in the Italian, Uzbek and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the text in English will prevail.

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

Director General for Sustainable
Development, Environmental Damage,
European Union and International Affairs

Francesco La Camera



**For the State Committee on Ecology and
Environmental Protection of the
Republic of Uzbekistan**

Chairman of the State Committee
Of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Ecology
and Environmental Protection

Bahrom Kuchkarov Tulkinovich