

MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING

between

the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of Italy

and

the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

on

***CO-OPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
VULNERABILITY, ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION***

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

and

The Governments of the countries of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”

RECALLING that the Republic of Italy and the countries of the Caribbean region are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Decision 1 of the 19th Conference of Parties and the Decision 1 of the 20th Conference of Parties, according to which all Parties are invited to identify and implement their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;

SUPPORTING the initiative undertaken by the G7 Countries to stimulate the creation of effective climate risk insurance, which covers against the negative impacts of climate change induced hazards in low and middle-income countries;

RECALLING the Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre on “Co-operation in the Field of Climate Change Vulnerability, Risk Assessment, Adaptation and Mitigation”, signed in December 2004;

ACKNOWLEDGING the Final Declaration of the VII Italian-Latin American and Caribbean Conference, June 13, 2015, which decides to establish the Italian-Latin American *forum* on renewable energies;

CONSIDERING that projects on renewable energies provide potential opportunities to be designed and implemented under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Mechanisms, and shall result in an efficient contribution to sustainable development and in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;

REFERRING to the law of the Republic of Italy, June 1, 2002, n° 120, that authorizes the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea to finance activities in third countries, that shall substantively contribute to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol,

Have agreed on the following:

ARTICLE 1
OBJECTIVE

1. The Parties, in co-operation with other relevant ministries, international organizations, institutions and enterprises, shall maintain and enhance bilateral co-operation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.
2. This Memorandum shall apply to procedures that facilitate the development and implementation of instruments under UNFCCC aiming at greenhouse gas emission reduction.

ARTICLE 2
SECTORS OF COOPERATION

1. The Parties shall co-operate in the sectors of:
 - adaptation to climate change, and protection from the vulnerability to sea level rise and climate variability in the region;
 - identification and implementation of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;
 - reporting and assessment of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;
 - development and dissemination of the use of renewable energies;
 - transfer of scientific and technical knowledge and experience;
 - transfer of technology;
 - exchange of experts, scientists and researchers;
 - enhancing capacities for the implementation of Mechanisms under the UNFCCC and its related instruments;
 - promotion of joint ventures between the private sectors of the Parties.

In addition, the Parties shall aim at strengthening the national energy infrastructure through the development of the local renewable energy potential and ensuring increased access to energy services of the population and the remote communities.

2. To this end:
 - a. The Parties shall implement the programmes/projects, according to the decisions of the Joint Committee established under the provisions of Art. 3 below.
3. The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea shall:
 - a. Co-finance the implementation of the projects under this Memorandum in accordance with the Programme outline contained in the annexes, through direct contributions or through a designated implementing agency, for an amount not exceeding 6 (six) million euros, in the period 2016-2017, already available within the balance of the Italian Ministry of Environment.
4. In order to leverage the Italian financial contribution, the access to credit of development bank should be considered. The Parties may jointly submit projects to the International Financing Institutions, inter alia the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund and the European Commission.

5. The areas of cooperation identified in Paragraph 1 above can be extended to other areas upon approval by the Parties, and the corresponding amendment to the Memorandum shall be annexed to the Memorandum as an integral part of it.

ARTICLE 3
CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES

1. The Parties agree to set up a Joint Committee for the implementation of this Memorandum, constituted of three representatives of the Italian Party and one representative of each Caribbean State Party.
2. The Italian Party shall be represented by the Director General of the Directorate for Sustainable Development, Environmental Damage, European Union and International Affairs of the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, by one representative of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Directorate General for Development Cooperation) and by one expert.
3. The Caribbean States shall be represented by the Head of Mission of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York.
4. The Joint Committee shall meet within three months following signature of this Memorandum.
5. During its first meeting, the Joint Committee shall detail the Terms of Reference for the implementation of this Memorandum and shall agree upon the rules and procedures that shall govern its operations, as well as on its tasks and frequency of meetings.

ARTICLE 4
LAW IN FORCE

This Memorandum shall be in compliance with all the international Conventions and Protocols signed by the Parties, as well as with any other obligations related to Italy's membership in the European Union and to the other Parties' membership in regional organizations.

The implementation of the Memorandum shall be subjected to the provisions of the national legislation of each Signatory.

ARTICLE 5
FINAL PROVISIONS

1. This Memorandum becomes effective on the date of signing and shall remain in force for five years, unless one Party notifies the other Party about the intention to terminate it, through diplomatic means, at least (6) six months in advance of the termination date.

2. The Parties agree that all the financial resources allocated by the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea to the programmes developed under the provisions of this Memorandum are not liable to tax, in accordance with the legislation of the Caribbean States.

3. Amendments can be made consensually by the Parties through an exchange of letters, specifying the date of the entry into force of the Amendment.

4. Any difference that may arise as to the interpretation, management and/or execution of this Memorandum shall be resolved by mutual agreement and diplomatic means. The English text shall be utilized to resolve disagreements arising between the Parties.

5. Termination of this Memorandum shall have no effect on ongoing co-operation projects already agreed upon by the parties.

Done in _____

on _____

For the Ministry for the Environment Land
and Sea of the Republic of Italy

For Antigua and Barbuda

For the Republic of Haiti

For the Commonwealth of the Bahamas

For Jamaica

For Barbados

For Saint Kitts and Nevis

For Belize

For Saint Lucia

For the Commonwealth of Dominica

For Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

For Grenada

For the Republic of Suriname

For the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

For the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

ANNEX 1

CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY, ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROGRAMME FOR THE CARICOM MEMBER STATES Programme Outline

Justification

Protection from vulnerability and adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, as well as mitigation of harmful emissions generated by energy utilization, are priorities established by the governments of the CARICOM Member States. Energy however is a key driver of economic growth, with a significant bearing on education, environment, health and social welfare. Thus, energy and sustainable development need to be integrated and prioritized in national strategic development plans. The CARICOM Member States recognize the need to develop and realize a significant transition to sustainable energy, as well as to pursue a joint regional effort for energy development towards sustainable energy solutions.

To this end, the Sustainable Energy Programme to be funded by the Italian Government intends to strengthen the national energy infrastructure through the development of the local renewable energy potential and to ensure increased access to energy services of the islands' population. The programme shall be community-based and implemented with the involvement and support of the communities, in order to ensure long-term sustainability.

Sub-Programmes

The activities are articulated in the following five sub-programmes. All the activities shall be carried out in the Caribbean States with local participation, as applicable.

1. Development of climate change adaptation measures

The Caribbean region is one of the sites of the most intense and important climate variations that have consequences that impact the whole planet, and is the site of special vulnerability for the small island community and states. The islands are vulnerable to long term climate change, especially sea level rise, land degradation and changes in the intensity, distribution and prevalent paths of tropical cyclones. The sub-programme shall include:

- Assessment of current and future climate changes in the tropical cyclones distribution, intensity and frequency;
- Experimental dynamical seasonal forecasts;
- Expansion of the periodic bulletin of climatic information for small islands – the "Island Climate Update" – to include more information and adding a special "Yearly Climate Assessment" of climate change in the region;
- Setup and strengthen early warning systems.

2. Identification, implementation, reporting and assessment of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions

3. Assessment of energy requirements and strengthening of energy policies and action plans

- Technology assessment of energy requirements and infrastructure in the mid-and long-term and of the most appropriate renewable energy mix capable of meeting those needs.
- Advice and technical assistance for the development of sustainable transport technologies, including non-motorized solutions, in order to reduce pollutants and GHG emissions.
- Development of human resources specialized in the planning, implementation and management of energy policies, strategies and plans.
- Strengthening the participation of all actors in the design and implementation of renewable energy policies and practices, in particular of rural women.
- Strengthening national capacities for the development of national and regional energy markets, as well as of the appropriate financial instruments.
- Improving the policy measures and a sound regulatory framework.
- Energy Data collection and analysis.

4. Rural Electrification

There is a pressing need to increase access to electricity for lighting, water pumping, telecommunications, medicine cold storage, etc., especially in Haiti's island and remote communities.

- The photovoltaic technology – new installations and rehabilitation of existing facilities – is considered the most suitable technology in those islands where solar energy is the most abundant renewable source;
- other renewable energy technologies – such as mini hydro and wind – shall be developed in accordance with the local potential.

5. Development of renewable energy sources

The Caribbean region has a considerable potential for a variety of renewable sources – biomass, geothermal, hydro, solar, tide, waves and wind. According to each country priorities, the programme shall include the following activities:

- Investigation of the renewable potential.
- Photovoltaic stand-alone electrification in urban areas.
- Photovoltaic integration into the national grid.
- Wind energy data collection and resource assessment.
- Biogas from household waste and waste management.
- Assessment of the geothermal, tidal and wave power generation potential.
- Small Hydropower resource assessment.

ANNEX 2

CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY, ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME FOR THE CARICOM MEMBER STATES Programme Outline

I. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Justification

The SAMOA Pathway calls for support to the efforts of vulnerable countries for building resilience to the impacts of climate change and improving their adaptive capacity, through the design and implementation of climate change adaptation measures appropriate to their respective vulnerabilities and economic, environmental and social situations. As it is well known, climate change increases the vulnerability to and the impact of natural occurrences, such as severe weather phenomena, as well as of anthropogenic activities, such as the unsustainable use of natural resources that causes ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss.

The Climate Change Adaptation Programme aims therefore at 1) Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction efforts of the CARICOM Member States as a means to decrease their vulnerability to the impact of severe weather occurrences and sea level rise, and increase their capacity to adapt to increasingly extreme situations caused by climate change; 2) Supporting protection and conservation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity as a means to increase the resilience of the CARICOM Member States to the negative impact of anthropogenic activities that are made more severe by climate change.

Sub-Programmes

It is foreseen that the activities articulated in the two sub-programmes below will be carried out in all the CARICOM Member States participating in the programme, as applicable.

II.1 Sub-Programme for Disaster Risk Reduction

One of the most damaging consequences of climate change is the sea level rise, which in recent years has been shown to occur at alarming rates. The Caribbean region is subject to this as well as to other special vulnerabilities, due to intense and important climate variations that have consequences that impact the whole planet, such as long term changes in the intensity, distribution and prevalent paths of tropical cyclones and other extreme weather phenomena. The sub-programme will be consistent with the basic tenets of the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction 2015 – 2030 and will include:

- Development of measures to adapt to sea level rise;
- Strengthening early warning systems through collection, analysis, management and use of relevant data, including preparation of risk maps, on the evolution of weather phenomena and their impact on ecosystems at the social and spatial scale;
- Strengthening disaster risk governance and national capacities for disasters prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation, and fostering collaboration and partnership across mechanisms and institutions for the implementation of instruments relevant to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development;

- Enhancing the resilience of national health systems, including by integrating disaster risk management into health care systems, especially at the local level;
- Development of contingency plans for risk management due to natural disasters;
- Development of adaptation measures for critical facilities, such as schools and hospitals;
- Development of new building codes, rehabilitation and reconstruction practices and standardized building materials;
- Increasing resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, including water and sanitation, transportation and telecommunications infrastructure.

II.2 Sub-Programme for the Protection and conservation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity

The SAMOA pathway has recognized that the Pacific SIDS have extraordinary marine and terrestrial biodiversity which is fundamental for their livelihood and identity, and noted that this valuable biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides are at grave risk also due to climate change. Furthermore, the Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its targets have highlighted the fact that the reduction of marine pollution of all kinds (which include invasive species), the sustainable management, protection and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems, the regulation of ocean resources harvesting and the end of overfishing are key to maintaining healthy and productive oceans for the benefit of millions of people and future generations. In this context the sub-programme will include:

- Development of conservation measures for coastal and marine areas affected by the negative impacts of climate change, especially those that are particularly significant for their biodiversity and for providing ecosystem services;
- Strengthening the national managerial and organizational capacity as well as governance in the areas of protection and conservation of marine biodiversity;
- Development of protected areas;
- Development of programmes and projects that enhance ecosystem resilience and increase the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks through conservation and restoration measures;
- Development of measures to minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification and invasive species.

The sub-programmes, wherever possible, will be community-based and implemented with the involvement and support of the communities so as to ensure long-term sustainability.