

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

**COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

between

**MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
OF THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND**

and

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

The Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs of the Kingdom of Swaziland and the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy hereafter referred to as “the Signatories”,

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 .

RECALLING that the Kingdom of Swaziland and the Republic of Italy are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to the Kyoto Protocol;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Decisions 1/CP.16 and 9-15/CP.19 of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC which provides a framework for Parties 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 Parties to the UNFCCC which invite all Parties to identify, communicate and update every five (5) years the status of 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 adaptation actions aimed at reducing the emissions and the vulnerability and building resilience. Such urgent action should address poverty and should not undermine economic development;

CONSIDERING that projects on renewable energies provide potential opportunities to be designed and implemented under applicable/relevant 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 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 emission. Finally the Memorandum of Understanding will aim to ensure energy security, protect the environment and natural resources and create adaptation actions to build resilience and increase adaptive capacity while ensuring sustainable development.

Article 2

Areas of cooperation

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

- a) collection, analysis, and dissemination of meteorological data relevant to the observation of climate change and the measurement of its impact on the potentially vulnerable sectors of the region's economies, such as: agriculture, health and tourism;
- b) update, implementation, monitoring and communication of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and the Sustainable Energy for All Action Agenda;
- c) protect ecosystem conservation and enhance sustainable natural resource management;
- d) sustainable forests management for the reduction of deforestation, forest and land degradation, conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks;
- e) enhancement of capacities for the implementation of applicable/relevant Mechanisms under the UNFCCC and its related instruments and establishing linkages with the Paris Committee on Capacity Building;
- f) stimulation and dissemination of the economic and technological transformation of the country towards low carbon and sustainable development;
- g) implementation of regulatory reforms enabling private investments in energy efficiency and small scale renewable energies;
- h) water treatment and sustainable water integrated management to address climate change;
- i) establish interlinkages between the climate change convention and other conventions on sustainable waste management to address climate change;

- j) development of public education and awareness campaigns on mitigation and adaptation to global climate change;
 - k) resources sharing, technical co-operation and information exchange with other global climate change initiatives;
 - l) capacity building for monitoring, reporting on climate issues, such as mitigation and adaptation;
 - m) mitigate effects of climate changes taking into account a gender perspectives.
- Further areas of cooperation could be included, upon approval by the Signatories.

Article 3

Activities

The cooperation between the Signatories will be conducted in the following means:

- realization of joint projects;
- capacity building, technology transfer and technical assistance;
- exchange of information and materials related to environment, including programs, publications, expertise and studies results;
- exchange of experts, delegations visits and trainees;
- joint organization of workshops, seminars or other meetings;
- reciprocal participation of experts to events and projects;
- promotion of private sector participation and activities to implement Public Private Partnership initiatives;
- any other form of cooperation agreed upon by the Signatories.

Article 4

Work plan, projects and activities

4.1 Upon signature of this Memorandum, the Signatories will appoint the experts who will be in charge to prepare a medium term work plan to be submitted for approval by the Joint Committee as stipulated in Article 5.

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 from both sides.

4.3 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

Coordination

5.1 In order to ensure the efficient implementation of the provisions of this Memorandum the Signatories will establish a Joint Committee.

5.2 The Joint Committee will be composed by two (2) representatives from the Kingdom of Swaziland. The Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs of the Kingdom of Swaziland will nominate one (1) candidate and will facilitate a second (1) nomination from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy, and two (2) representatives from the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy.

5.3 The Italian Ministry for the 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.

The Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs of the Kingdom of Swaziland will be represented by the Principal Secretary and Climate Change Focal Point, while the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy will be represented by the Director of Energy or his representative.

5.4 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.

5.5 During its first meeting, the Joint Committee will:

- adopt rules and procedures and establish the frequency of the meetings;
- approve the medium term Work plan, including projects and activities, as applicable.

In the subsequent meetings the Joint Committee will:

- 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 first Joint Committee will meet within six months after the signature of the present Memorandum.

Article 6

Means of implementation

6.1 The Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy will finance the implementation of projects under this Memorandum in an amount not exceeding € 2.000.000 (two) Million Euro.

6.2. The amount of co-financing from the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs of the Kingdom of Swaziland will be allocated at a later stage, based on the Ministry's financial circumstances and notified to the other Party during the first meeting of the Steering Committee.

6.3 The Signatories will jointly submit project proposals to various multilateral organizations, *inter alia*: the European Union, the International Financial Institutions, the United Nations organizations, the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund to assist to the Kingdom of Swaziland to fulfill its commitments under the UNFCCC and its instruments.

Article 7

Contributions

7.1 Any costs regarding the subject matter including the programs, activities, and projects under this Memorandum of Understanding will be borne by the Signatories as advised by the Joint Committee and in conformity with their respective national legislation and circumstances. Such costs will be met within the available budgeted resources of the Signatories and will not, in any event, create additional expenditures for the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland and the Government of Italy.

7.2 The Signatories 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 Signatories agree that all the financial resources allocated by the Italian Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea to the programs, projects and activities developed under the provisions of this Memorandum are not liable to tax, in accordance with the legislation of the Kingdom of Swaziland and international law provisions.

Article 8

Law in force

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

8.2 This Memorandum will 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 and the Kingdom of Swaziland to SADC.

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), unless one of the Signatories notifies the other in writing, at least six months in advance, of its intention to terminate it.

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 will be solved by the Signatories directly through mutual consultations and negotiations.

9.4 Termination of the present Memorandum will have no effect on ongoing co-operation projects, and / or on initiatives already agreed upon by the Signatories.

Done at Bonn, on the 17th May 2017 in three originals copies, in English language.

**For The Ministry of Tourism and
Environmental Affairs of the Kingdom of
Swaziland**

Principal Secretary

Mr. Emmanuel Dumisani Dlamini,

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

Director General

Dr. Francesco La Camera