

TECHNICAL AGREEMENT

on

**COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Between

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

And

**THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES, AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
OF THE TUNISIAN REPUBLIC**

The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Renewable Energy of the Tunisian Republic, hereafter referred to as “the Signatories”;

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 developing country Parties, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable;

RECALLING that the 21st Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC has adopted 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;

RECALLING that the Tunisian Republic and the Italian Republic are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to the Kyoto Protocol and have signed the Paris Agreement on April 22nd, 2016;

CONSIDERING that energy efficiency and renewable energies programs and projects provide potential opportunities to be implemented under the UNFCCC Mechanisms

and offer an important contribution to sustainable development and greenhouse gas emissions reduction;

Have entered into the following Technical Agreement:

Article 1

Objective

The purpose of this Technical Agreement, within the competences of the Signatories, 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 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 Signatories will cooperate, in particular, in the following areas of common interest:

- a) promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency in order to achieve the target established by the government of Tunisia;
- b) support the implementation of programs and projects;
- c) implementation, monitoring, reporting and communication of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
- d) implementation of Mechanisms under the UNFCCC and related instruments;
- e) integrated coastal zones management effectiveness;
- l) sustainable waste management.

Further areas of cooperation, within the scope of this Technical Agreement, will 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 documents, including programs, publications, expertise and study results;
- exchange of experts, delegation visits and trainees;
- joint organization of workshops, seminars and other meetings;
- promotion of private sector participation and activities to implement Public Private Partnership initiatives;
- enhancement of cooperation with non-governmental organizations with regard to programs and initiatives in the field of environment and sustainable development;
- enhancement of public education and awareness campaigns on measures for adaptation to climate change;
- development of fund raising capacities with regard to global climate and change sustainable development.

Further activities of cooperation, within the scope of this Technical Agreement, will be included upon approval by the Signatories.

Article 4

Coordination

4.1 In order to ensure the efficient implementation of the provisions of this Technical Agreement, the Signatories will establish a Joint Committee.

4.2 The Joint Committee will be composed by two (2) representatives from the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Renewable Energy of the Tunisian Republic, and two (2)

representatives from the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic.

4.3 The Joint Committee will provide general direction and guidance for the implementation of the activities of cooperation, approve the Work Plan, supervise and support the cooperation activities, take financial decision.

4.4 During its first meeting, the Joint Committee will adopt rules and procedures, such as:

- Rules of procedure;
- Financial rules;
- Guiding principles for bilateral cooperation mechanism.

The first Joint Committee will also establish the frequency of the meetings and approve the medium term Work Plan, including projects and activities, as applicable.

4.5 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 Technical Agreement;
- 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.

The Joint Committee will meet within six (6) months after the signature of the present Technical Agreement.

4.6 A Management Unit, under the Joint Committee supervision, will be established in order to ensure the implementation of the Work Plan, monitoring, communication of results and coordination with all stakeholders involved.

Management Unit composition will be decided during the first meeting of the Joint Committee.

Article 5

Work Plan, projects and activities

5.1 Upon signature of this Technical Agreement, the Signatories will appoint the experts who will prepare a medium term Work Plan identifying sector of intervention, to be submitted for approval by the Joint Committee, as stipulated in Article 4.

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 on both sides.

5.3 Taking into account the legal frameworks of each of the Signatories and their respective national obligations, the implementation of programs, projects and activities will be based on principles of impartiality, equality, reciprocity and common interest.

Article 6

Means of implementation

6.1 The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic will co-finance the implementation of the projects and activities under this Technical Agreement in an amount not exceeding EUR 2 000 000 (two million euros).

6.2 The contribution from the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Renewable Energy of the Tunisian Republic will be decided at a later stage and notified to the other Signatory during the first meeting of the Joint Committee.

6.3 The Signatories will jointly submit project proposals to various multilateral organizations (*inter alia* the European Commission, the International Financial Institutions, the United Nations organizations, the World Bank Group), in order to assist the Tunisian Republic 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 Technical Agreement will be borne by the Signatories, in conformity with their respective national legislation. Such costs will be covered with the available budgeted resources of the Signatories and will not, in any event, create additional expenditures for the Government of Tunisia 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 Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic to the programs, activities and projects, developed under the provisions of this Technical Agreement, are not liable to tax, in accordance with the legislation of the Tunisian Republic or any other applicable laws.

Article 8

Effectiveness

8.1 This Technical Agreement will not affect or prevent rights and obligations of the Signatories to third parties.

8.2 This Technical Agreement will be implemented in compliance with international law principles, international conventions and protocols signed by the Signatories, national legislation of Tunisia and Italy, as well as any other obligation arising from the membership of the Italian Republic in the European Union.

Article 9

Final provisions

9.1 The present Technical Agreement will become effective on the date of the signature and will remain effective for five (5) years, unless one of the Signatories notifies the other in writing, at least six (6) months in advance, of its intention to terminate it.

9.2 The provisions of this Technical Agreement may be amended by written agreement between the Signatories.

9.3 Any dispute arising from interpretation and implementation of this Technical Agreement will be solved by the Signatories amicably through consultation or negotiations between the Signatories.

9.4 Termination of the present Technical Agreement will have no effect on ongoing cooperation projects, or on initiatives already agreed upon by the Signatories.

Done in Rome, on 9 of February in two (2) original copies, in English.

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

H.E. Gian Luca Galletti

**Minister for the Environment, Land and Sea
of the Italian Republic**

**For the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and
Renewable Energy of the Tunisian Republic**

H.E. H ela Cheikhrouhou

**Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Tunisian
Republic**