



MARHP
République tunisienne

TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENT

on

**COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

between

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

and

**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER RESOURCES AND
FISHERIES OF THE TUNISIAN REPUBLIC**

The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic (IMELS) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries of the Tunisian Republic (TMAWRF), hereinafter 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 Italian Republic and the Tunisian 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 the Climate-Smart Agriculture programs and projects provide opportunities to the reduction of the environmental and climate impact of agricultural activities and offer an important contribution to the achievement of sustainable

agricultural development goals and sustainable resources management priorities in the face of climate change.

Have entered into the following Technical Arrangement (hereinafter “Arrangement”):

Article 1

Objective

The purpose of this Arrangement, 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 solutions combining two pillars: climate change adaptation and mitigation, underpinning sustainable management of agricultural production systems, water resources and fisheries.

Article 2

Areas of cooperation

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

- a) supporting the implementation of programs and projects;
- b) supporting the implementation of the Tunisian Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
- c) supporting the activities for climate change adaptation and mitigation and promoting sustainable development in the sector of Agriculture, Ecosystems, Water Resources and Fisheries as defined in the Tunisian NDC;
- d) supporting the implementation of Mechanisms under the UNFCCC and related instruments;

Further areas of cooperation, within the scope of this Arrangement, will be included upon approval by the Signatories.

Article 3

Activities

The cooperation between the Signatories will be conducted by 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;
- realization of common research and development programs/projects;
- support of multi-stakeholder innovation platforms (hubs) which gather policy makers, development agencies, civil society and the private sector with researchers and research institutions.

Further activities of cooperation, within the scope of this Arrangement, 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 Arrangement, the Signatories 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 Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries of the Tunisian 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.

During the first Joint Committee the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries of the Tunisian Republic will communicate the selected Implementation Agency.

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 Arrangement;
- 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 Arrangement.

Article 5

Work Plan, projects and activities

5.1 Upon signature of this Arrangement, the Signatories 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 IMELS will provide financial support for the implementation of the activities and projects identified in the Plan of Activities approved in the meetings of the Joint Committee.

6.2 The contribution from the TMAWRF 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 Institutions and Organizations (*inter alia* the United Nations, the European Union, International Financial Institutions, 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 Arrangement will be borne by the Signatories, in conformity with their respective national legislation, within the limits of their ordinary budget availability and without any additional costs for the State Budgets of the Italian Republic and of the Tunisian Republic.

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

7.3 The Signatories agree that all the financial resources allocated by the IMELS to the programs, activities and projects, developed under the provisions of this Arrangement, 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 Arrangement will not affect or prevent rights and obligations of the Signatories to third parties.

8.2 This Arrangement will be implemented in compliance with applicable international law and with the national legislations of the Signatories, as well as with the obligations arising from Italy's membership of the European Union.

Article 9

Intellectual property

Intellectual property rights will be respected and enforced by IMELS and TMAWRF throughout the cooperation activities implemented under this Arrangement. Should any joint activity involve intellectual property rights, on the basis of this Arrangement, IMELS and TMAWRF, in accordance with their respective internal legislations, will reciprocally determine, specify and agree in advance as to what constitutes intellectual property right as well as the adequate and effective protection of those intellectual property rights, in a written form.

Article 10

Final provisions

10.1 The present Arrangement will become effective on the date of signature and will remain valid 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.

10.2 The provisions of this Arrangement may be consensually amended in writing by the Signatories.

10.3 Any divergence on the interpretation and implementation of this Arrangement will be solved amicably through direct consultation or negotiations between the Signatories.

10.4 Termination of the present Arrangement will have no effect on ongoing cooperation projects, nor on initiatives already agreed upon by the Signatories.

Done at Rome, on 30th of May 2018 in two (2) originals, in the English language.

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

**For the Ministry of Agriculture, Water
Resources and Fisheries
of the Tunisian Republic**

**Francesco LA CAMERA
Head of Directorate for Sustainable
Development, Environmental Damage,
European Union and International
Affairs**

**Boubaker KARRAY
Chef de Cabinet**
