



**TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENT**

**on**

**CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**between**

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

**and**

**THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS OF THE KURDISTAN REGIONAL  
GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ**

The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) of Iraq hereinafter referred to jointly as “the Parties”;

**Wishing to promote** a bilateral cooperation in the field of environmental protection, climate and sustainable development;

**Being aware** of the global natures of environmental and climate issues, the urgency to find a cost-effective and lasting solutions in addressing these issues through international cooperation and the importance of coordinating joint activities;

**Being aware** of the adhesion of the Republic of Iraq as full member to the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

**Convinced that** cooperation between the Parties in the field of environmental and climate protection to implement the Convention and the Paris Agreement is of mutual benefit and will further promote the friendly relations between the Parties;

**Convinced of** the necessity to intensify the international cooperation in view, notably, to ensure the required conditions for the setting up of sustainable development policies;

**Pursuant the decisions** and conclusions stated at Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 and the agreed outcome document “The Future We Want” which constitutes a sound basis for further work in the ongoing quest for achieving sustainable development, globally, regionally, nationally and locally;

**Recalling** the Climate Agreement reached at the COP 21 in Paris in December 2015, and endorsed at COP22 in Marrakech in November 2016.

**Recognizing** that the promotion of a sustainable development address the global climate change challenges agreed at COP 21; further to renewed commitments arising from COP 22 held in Marrakesh on November 2016;

**Taking into account** that on November 2015 Iraq presented the “Nationally Determined Contribution” (NDC) under the UNFCCC that foresees ambitious targets on climate change;

**Recognizing** the importance of the need to encourage the synergy between national programs and regional and international activities;

Have agreed upon the following:

### **Article 1**

The Parties will encourage and develop cooperation in the field of environmental and climate protection and sustainable development on the basis of equality, mutual benefits and in accordance with their laws and regulations, taking into consideration their environmental and climate policies.

### **Article 2**

The Parties will develop cooperation by initiatives of mutual interest in the following areas:

- a) Systematic observation of the climate system;
- b) Provision of climate services in support of sustainable development, health and safety of population;
- c) Early warning systems and emergency preparedness;
- d) Climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- e) Impacts of climate change on agriculture and food security;
- f) Management of water resources;
- g) Development of data archives related to climate change and data rescue of historical climate data;
- h) Other areas of mutual interest that may be agreed upon by the Parties, within the limits of this Technical Arrangement.

### **Article 3**

The Parties will cooperate through:

- a) Establishment and operation of a real time monitoring system.
- b) Capacity building and technical assistance in the areas mentioned in Article 2.
- c) Realization of joint projects.
- d) Missions of experts.
- e) On-the-job training in Italy and in Kurdistan.
- f) Promotion of private sector participation.
- g) Joint organization of workshops, seminars or other meetings to be attended by scientists, experts, professionals of both Parties.
- h) Other means of cooperation that may be agreed upon by the Parties.

## **Article 4**

The Parties will make efforts to promote direct cooperation between environmental science and engineering universities, research centers as well as private sectors of the two Parties in areas of mutual interest.

The Parties will exchange experts and environmental specialists in order to promote knowledge and experiences and improve their qualifications, as well as to carry out joint activities in the priority areas detailed in Article 1.

## **Article 5**

The Parties will establish a Joint Committee (JC) composed of 4 members, two representatives of the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and two representatives of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq.

The JC will approve an Action Plan (AP) defining a set of actions to be implemented during following 24 months.

The JC will provide general direction and advise of cooperation, approve the Action Plans, supervise and support the cooperation activities, take financial decisions for the activities, establishing a mechanism to guarantee transparency of expenditures, their accounting and a financial audit. Follow-up meetings of the JC will take place at least once a year.

Decisions will be made by consensus. The Parties will notify each other within one month from the signature of this Technical Arrangement (TA) their representatives members in the JC.

The works of the JC will be open to the participation, as observers, of representatives and experts designed by the Parties.

## **Article 6**

This Technical Arrangement will not affect or prevent rights and obligations of the Parties to third Parties. All activities undertaken for the implementation of this Technical Arrangement will be carried out in full compliance with their domestic laws and regulations, with their international obligations and, as far as Italy is concerned, with those arising from its membership of the European Union.

## **Article 7**

The Parties implement this Arrangement in the limit of their budgetary availabilities, without any further financial responsibility on respective Governments.

All activities undertaken in the framework of this Technical Arrangement will be carried out within the funds made available by the Parties to implement the Action Plan, without any further financial implication.

The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) will provide financial support for the implementation of the activities and projects identified in the Action Plan approved in the meetings of the Joint Committee.

The amount for the implementation of the agreed Action Plan will be notified at a later stage, during the Joint Committee meetings.

The amount of co-financing from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq will be allocated at a later stage, and notified to the other Signatory during the first meeting of the JC.

In order to ensure the transparency of the process, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) of Iraq will be responsible of providing a Financial Report that will include adequate financial and non-financial information on the expenditure related to the projects activities.

This process shall be documented and subject to external audit.

The Parties agree that all financial resources allocated by the Italian Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea to develop this Technical Arrangement are not liable to tax.

## **Article 8**

Any dispute arising from the interpretation and implementation of this Technical Arrangement will be settled through direct mutual consultations and negotiations between the Parties.

**Article 9**

Intellectual property rights will be respected and enforced by the Parties throughout the cooperation activities implemented under this Technical Arrangement.

Should any joint activity involve intellectual property rights, on the basis of this Technical Arrangement, the Parties, in accordance with their internal legislation, will reciprocally determine, specify and agree in advance as to the adequate and effective protection of those intellectual property rights, in a written form.

**Article 10**

This present Technical Arrangement becomes effective on the date of its signing, will remain effective for 5 (five) years, and will be extended for the next 5 (five) years, unless one of the Parties notifies the other in writing at least 6 (six) months in advance, its intention to anticipate the termination.

Each of the Parties may withdraw from the Technical Arrangement and, in this case, its validity will terminate within six months from the reception of written notice.

The termination of this Technical Arrangement will not affect the validity and duration of the projects and activities agreed upon pursuant to the Technical Arrangement and initiated prior to such termination.

Done in Rome, on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 in 2 (two) original copies in English language.

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

**Francesco LA CAMERA  
Director General**

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**For the Ministry of  
Transportation and  
Communications of the Kurdistan  
Regional Government of Iraq**

**Fadhil Ibrahim KHUDUR  
Director General**

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