

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

**COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY, RISK ASSESSMENT,
ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION**

between

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

and

**THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, hereinafter referred to jointly as the “Signatories”;

RECALLING that the Signatories are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to the Kyoto Protocol, and have ratified the Paris Agreement to combat climate change;

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 invites all Parties to identify and communicate their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;

EMPHASISING that enhanced action and international cooperation on adaptation is urgently required to enable and support the implementation of adaptation actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience in country Parties;

CONSIDERING that projects on renewable energies provide potential opportunities to be designed and implemented under the UNFCCC Mechanisms, and can result in an efficient contribution to sustainable development and in the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions;

CONSIDERING the role of the Italian Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea as coordinator of the Platform on Environment and Water of the EU Strategy for Central Asia, and TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Joint Communiqué agreed between the EU and Kazakhstan, together with the other Central Asian countries, at the Fifth EU-Central Asia High Level Conference on Environment and Water Cooperation, held in Milan, Italy, on October 12-13, 2015;

Have entered into the following understanding:

Objective

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), within the competencies of the Signatories, is to strengthen and coordinate the efforts to combat global climate change and address its adverse effects, to support mechanisms to reduce climate change vulnerability and risk assessment, to promote clean and efficient energy, to stimulate transition towards a sustainable low-carbon economy, to implement adaptation actions and opportunities to protect the environment and natural resources in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

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) implementation, monitoring, reporting and communication of the Nationally Determined Contributions;
- c) enhancement of capacities for the implementation of Mechanisms under the UNFCCC and its related instruments;
- d) stimulation and dissemination of the economic and technological transformation towards low-carbon development;
- e) promotion and development of the use of renewable energies, increasing energy saving and energy efficiency;
- f) modernization of infrastructures and production technologies on the basis of energy efficiency;
- g) modernization of housing and communal services;
- h) development of public education and awareness campaigns on mitigation and adaptation to global climate change;
- i) resources sharing, technical cooperation and information exchange with other global climate change initiatives;
- j) capacity building for monitoring, reporting on climate issues;
- k) development of sustainable transport;
- l) conservation of ecosystems and enhancement of forest cover;

- m) integrated water integrated management; and
- n) waste management.

Further areas of cooperation could be included upon joint approval by the Signatories.

Activities

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

1. implementation of joint projects;
2. capacity building, technology transfer and technical assistance;
3. exchange of information and materials related to environment, including programs, publications, expertise and studies results;
4. exchange of experts, delegations visits and trainees;
5. joint organisation of workshops, seminars or other meetings;
6. reciprocal participation of experts in events and projects;
7. promotion of private sector participation and activities to implement Public Private Partnership initiatives;
8. any other form of cooperation agreed upon by the Signatories.

Coordination

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

The Joint Committee will be composed of two (2) representatives from each Signatory.

The Signatories intend to identify representatives for inclusion in the above-mentioned committee

The Signatories came to a mutual agreement that the Joint Committee will provide general direction and advice of cooperation, approve work programs, supervise and support the cooperation activities and take financial decisions.

The Signatories intend to hold the first meeting of the Joint Committee within six (6) months after the signature of this MoU.

Work Plan, projects and activities

Upon signature of this MoU, the Signatories intend to appoint experts who will prepare a medium term work plan to be submitted for approval by the Joint Committee.

In the implementation of the programs, projects and activities, the Signatories intend to consider the participation of the public, private and non-profit sectors including where appropriate, universities, scientific and technical research bodies and non-governmental organisations and institutions of both Signatories.

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, in conformity with international law principles, Multilateral Environmental Agreements to which the Signatories are Parties, national legislation of the Italian Republic and the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as with any other obligation arising from the membership of the Italian Republic in the European Union.

Contributions

Any cost regarding the subject matter including the programmes, activities, and projects under this MoU will be met with the available budgeted resources of the Signatories and will not in any event create additional expenditures for the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Final Provision

The present MoU becomes effective on the date of signing 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.

The provisions of this MoU may be amended by written agreement between the Signatories.

Any dispute arising from interpretation and implementation of this MoU will be resolved by the Signatories directly through consultations and will not be referred to a third party or a tribunal for adjudication.

This MoU is not an international treaty and does not create any rights and obligations governed by the international law.

Signed in Astana, on the 4th of September 2017 in two original copies, in English, Italian, Russian and Kazakh languages, the texts of which are equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the Signatories will refer to the text in English.

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

**For the Ministry of Energy
of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

