



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**on**

**COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**between**

**THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY SECURITY  
OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC**

**and**

**THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
OF UKRAINE**

**The Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security of the Italian Republic (IMEES), and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources (MEPNR), hereinafter referred to individually as a “Participant” and collectively as “the Participants”;**

**Considering** the United Nations General Assembly resolution n. A/RES/70/1 *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as interlinked under the “Planet” pillar;

**Considering** the Sustainable Development Goal n. 17 as a platform for strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development by enhancing international cooperation;

**Considering** the relevance of some particular SDGs and targets which represent the priority for IMEES’ mandate (particularly, inter alia, *SDG 6, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 15, SDG 17*);

**Considering** that the Italian Republic and Ukraine are Parties to the following Conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), done at Rio de Janeiro on 5th June 1992; the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), done at Paris on 17th June 1994 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), done at New York on 9th May 1992;

**Recalling** that the Italian Republic and Ukraine are Parties to the Paris Agreement to combat climate change, done at Paris on 12 December 2015, on the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the UNFCCC Parties;

**Taking also into account** National Strategies, Plans or Programmes (NBSAPs) developed according to Article 6 of the CBD and National Action Programmes (NAPs) developed according to Articles 9-15 of the UNCCD;

**Recognizing** that the 17 SDGs are multidimensional and closely interlinked and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls upon Member States and their Partners to explore connections across goals and targets by developing synergies;

**Convicted** that enhanced action and international cooperation on sustainable development is urgently required to enable and support the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Rio Conventions;

Have entered into the following Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter “MoU”):

## **Article 1**

### **Purpose and Scope**

1.1 This MoU aims at strengthening international cooperation for sustainable development between the Participants, in particular during the period of reconstruction for the recovery of ecosystems from the environmental damage of war.

1.2 Within the competences of the Participants, this MoU mainly operates in accordance with the following SDG’s and objectives under all three Rio Conventions (CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC):

- improve water resource management and to protect and restore water-related ecosystems (SDG 6),
- encourage sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12),
- strengthen and coordinate the efforts to combat global climate change and address its adverse effects (SDG 13),
- promote sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources (SDG 14),
- protect, restoring and enhancing sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, land degradation and biodiversity loss (SDG 15),

- enhance the international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all sustainable development goals (SDG 17).

1.3 Within the scope and limits of this MoU, the Participants may consensually approve further objectives.

## **Article 2**

### **Joint Initiatives**

2.1 The Participants will undertake the following initiatives:

- a) Development of effective mitigation and adaptation measures, by enhancing resilience to climate change;
- b) Air protection and air quality monitoring;
- c) Collection, analysis and dissemination of the methodology for observing and measuring the impact of climate change on potentially vulnerable sectors;
- d) Protection of biodiversity, natural reserves development and reduction of environmental degradation;
- e) Promotion of recovery and sustainable forests management, including transfer of technologies and improvement of forest fire protection capacity;
- f) Promotion of sustainable and integrated land use;
- g) Ensure the sustainable and integrated management of water resources;
- h) Sustainable waste management and development of circular economy;
- i) Development of public education and awareness campaigns on global climate change and sustainable development;
- j) Strengthening public participation and exchange of good practices on environmental assessments.

2.2 Within the scope and limits of this MoU, the Participants may consensually approve further initiatives.

## **Article 3**

### **Cooperation Activities**

3.1 Cooperation will be based on principles of impartiality, equality, reciprocity and common interest.

3.2 Joint initiatives will be carried out particularly through:

- realization of joint projects and programs;
- implementation of projects, programs and activities, giving high consideration to the participation of public, private, profit and non-profit sectors, also including, where appropriate, universities, scientific and technical research bodies, non-governmental organizations, as well as institutions on both sides;
- promotion of capacity building (e.g. on monitoring and evaluation procedures), capacity development, capacity strengthening, technology transfer and technical assistance;
- exchange of information, relevant documentation, including publications, expertise and study results;
- implementation of the relevant EU-acquis;

- exchange of experts, study tour, delegation visits and trainees, also involving universities, research centres, and university and inter-university consortia;
- organization of joint workshops, seminars and other meetings;
- promoting the participation of the private sector, profit sector and Public Private Partnership initiatives;
- realization of common research and development programs/projects.

3.3 Within the scope and limits of this MoU, the Participants may consensually approve further activities of cooperation.

#### **Article 4**

##### **Coordination**

4.1 In order to ensure the effective and full implementation of the provisions of this MoU, the Participants intend to appoint as soon as possible a Joint Committee composed by a delegation of their own representatives, which will provide general direction and guidance for the implementation and supervision of the cooperation activities and adopt the relevant decision for their realization.

4.2 The Joint Committee will adopt its Rules of procedure and Guiding principles for bilateral cooperation mechanism for the approved projects and initiatives resulting from this MoU and still ongoing at the date of termination of the present MoU.

#### **Article 5**

##### **Means of implementation**

5.1 Any costs regarding the implementation of the programmes, activities, and projects under this MoU will be covered by the Participants, within the limits of their ordinary budget availability and without any additional costs for the State budgets of the Italian Republic and Ukraine.

5.2 Cooperative activities under this MoU will be implemented according to the financial capabilities of the Participants and their national legislations.

#### **Article 6**

##### **Accountability**

The Participants will establish a mechanism, under the provisions of the respective national laws, for granting transparency of expenditures, accounting and audit.

#### **Article 7**

##### **Law in force**

7.1 This MoU does not constitute an international agreement which may lead to rights and obligations under international law. No provision of this MoU is to be understood and performed as a legal obligation or commitment of the Participants.

7.2 This MoU will be implemented in accordance with the legislations of the Italian Republic and Ukraine, as well as applicable international law and, as for the IMEES, the obligations arising from Italy's membership of the European Union.

## Article 8

### Intellectual property

8.1 Intellectual property rights will be respected and enforced by IMEES and MEPRN throughout the cooperation activities implemented under this MoU. Should any joint activity involve intellectual property rights, on the basis of this MoU, the Participants, in accordance with their respective legislations, will reciprocally determine, specify in writing in advance as to what constitutes intellectual property right as well as the adequate and effective protection of those intellectual property rights.

## Article 9

### Personal Data Protection

No information regarding a person or information enabling his/her identification will be transmitted to any third party or processed in a manner, which is incompatible with the original purposes, without the prior written consent of the Participants from which such information was received.

## Article 10

### Final provisions

10.1 This MoU may be amended in writing by mutual consent of the Participants.

10.2 Any difference in the interpretation and/or implementation of this MoU will be settled amicably through direct consultations or negotiations between the Participants.

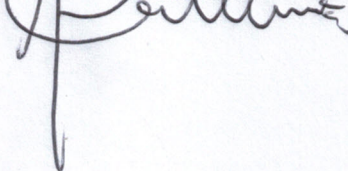
10.3 The present MoU takes effect on the next date following the date of signature and will remain valid for a period of five (5) years, unless one of the Participants notifies the other of its intention to terminate it at least six (6) months prior to the intended date of expiration.

10.4 The Participants may renew this MoU in writing by mutual consent.

Signed in Rome..., on 27<sup>th</sup> April of ... 2013... in two (2) originals, in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

**For the Ministry of the Environment  
and Energy Security  
of the Italian Republic**

Gilberto Pichetto Fratin  
Ministro



**For the Ministry of Environmental  
Protection and Natural Resources  
of Ukraine**

Yevhenii Fedorenko  
Deputy Minister

