



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE  
E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**for**

**COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**between**

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

**and**

**THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY  
OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA**

**The Ministry of Environment and Energy Security of the Italian Republic (IMEES) and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, hereinafter individually referred to as a “Participant” and collectively as “the Participants”;**

**Taking into account** 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 and revitalizing 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 7, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, SDG 17*);

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

**Recalling** that the 21<sup>st</sup> UNFCCC Conference of the Parties has adopted the Paris Agreement to combat climate change, which entered into force on 4 November 2016;

**Considering** that 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, invite all Parties to identify and communicate their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC);

**Taking also into account** National Biodiversity 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;

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

**Welcoming** previous successful cooperation experiences, such as the Technical Agreement on co-operation in the field of Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change, signed on 18 November 2016, that expired on 17 November 2021;

Have reached the following Understanding:

## **Article 1**

### **Purpose and Scope**

- 1.1 This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as “MoU”) aims at strengthening bilateral cooperation for sustainable development between the Participants.
- 1.2 Within the competences of the Participants, this MoU operates in accordance with the following SDG’s and the objectives under the CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC:
- improve water resource management and to protect and restore water-related ecosystems (SDG 6);
  - promote access to sustainable, renewable and efficient energy (SDG 7);
  - 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);
  - protect, restore and enhance sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managed forests, combat desertification, land degradation and biodiversity loss (SDG 15);
  - enhance 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 collaborate on the following initiatives:
- a) Development of effective mitigation and adaptation measures, by enhancing resilience to climate change and supporting the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
  - b) Collection, analysis and dissemination of the methodology for observing and measuring the impact of climate change on potentially vulnerable sectors;
  - c) Improvement of risk assessment and disaster management;
  - d) Protection of biodiversity and reduction of environmental degradation;
  - e) Promotion of sustainable forest management;
  - f) Promotion of sustainable and integrated land use;
  - g) Ensuring of the sustainable and integrated management of water resources;
  - h) Technology transfer and capacity building in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sector as appropriate;
  - i) Sustainable waste management and development of circular economy in order to promote sustainable production and consumption;
  - j) Development of public education and awareness campaigns on global climate change and sustainable development;



k) 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;
- promotion of projects, programs and activities, giving high consideration to the participation of public and non-profit sectors, also including, where appropriate, universities, scientific and technical research bodies, non-governmental organizations, as well as institutions pertaining to both countries of the Participants;
- promotion of capacity building (e.g. on monitoring and evaluation procedures), capacity development, capacity strengthening, technology transfer and technical assistance;
- exchange of information and relevant documentation, including publications, expertise and study results;
- exchange of experts, delegation visits and trainees, also involving universities, research centres, as well as university and inter-university consortia;
- organization of joint workshops, seminars and other meetings;
- promoting the participation of the private sector and Public Private Partnership initiatives;
- realization of common research and development of programs and projects.

3.3 Within the scope and limits of this MoU, the Participants may jointly approve further objectives.

### **Article 4 Coordination**

4.1 In order to ensure the effective and full implementation of the provisions of this MoU, the Participants, within 30 days from the signature of the present MoU, will establish a Joint Committee.

4.2 The Joint Committee will be composed by the delegation of IMEES and the delegation of EPA.

4.3. Each Participant will nominate a Head of Delegation, who represents the respective Participant. Members of delegations may be assisted by experts.

4.4 The Joint Committee will provide general direction and guidance for the implementation and supervision of the cooperation activities and adopt the relevant decisions for their realization.

4.5 At its first meeting, to be convened within 6 months after the signature of the present MoU, the Joint Committee will adopt:

- (its) Rules of procedure;

- The Guiding principles for bilateral cooperation mechanism, including the financial procedures and a monitoring system to evaluate *ex ante*, ongoing and *ex post* project's implementation, with appropriate indicators, with the aim of ensuring ownership, result-oriented approach, efficiency, transparency and accountability of the initiatives.
- 4.6 The first Joint Committee will also establish the frequency of the meetings, taking into consideration that the Joint Committee may also be organized in the form of virtual meetings (e.g. Videoconferencing).
- 4.7 The Joint Committee will also approve a mid-term Work Plan that includes projects and activities with reference to SDGs and targets to which they contribute.
- 4.8 In the subsequent meetings, the Joint Committee will approve detailed activities and projects to be implemented and financed under the framework of this MoU, including project budget and schedule as well as appropriate indicators to monitor their realization; coordinate the implementation of the activities and systematically review and assess the status, progress, results achieved and lessons learned of the cooperation activities.

#### **Article 5**

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

- 5.1 The present MoU will not create any new or additional costs for the public finance. Any costs regarding the implementation of this MoU will be borne by the Participants in compliance 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 the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
- 5.2 The proposals for the implementation of projects and activities, including their respective financial support, will be approved by the Joint Committee.
- 5.3 The Participants will jointly submit project proposals, approved by the Joint Committee, to International Institutions and Multilateral Organizations (inter alia the United Nations, the European Union, International Financial Institutions, the World Bank Group), in order to mobilize additional funds to support the Participants in implementing relevant commitments set under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

#### **Article 6**

##### **Accountability**

- 6.1 The Participants will establish a mechanism, under the provisions of the respective national laws, for granting transparency of expenditures, accounting and audit.
- 6.2 All financial resources allocated by IMEES to the programs, projects and activities, developed under the provisions of this MoU, may be subject to tax exemption, in accordance with the legislation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia or any other applicable laws.



**Article 7**  
**Applicable Law**

- 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 the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, as well as applicable international law and, as for the Italian Participant, 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 throughout the cooperation activities implemented under this MoU, in accordance with their respective legislations. Should any joint activity involve intellectual property rights, on the basis of this MoU, the Participants will reciprocally determine in writing and in advance, what constitutes intellectual property rights as well as their adequate and effective protection.

**Article 9**  
**Confidentiality**

- 9.1 No information regarding a person or information enabling his/her identification will be transmitted to any third party or otherwise processed in a manner incompatible with the purposes of the present MoU without the written consent of the Participant from which such information was received.

**Article 10**  
**Settlement of Disputes**

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

**Article 11**  
**Final provisions**

- 11.1 The provisions of this MoU may be amended in writing by mutual consent of the Participants.
- 11.2 The present MoU takes effect on the date of signature and will remain valid for a period of five (5) years, unless terminated by either Participant with at least six (6) months written notice via the diplomatic channels prior to its termination or its day of expiry.
- 11.3 The Participants may renew this MoU for additional periods of five (5) years in writing by mutual consent.
- 11.4 The termination of this MoU shall not affect the projects or programs undertaken in the framework of this MoU which have not been fully executed at the time of the termination unless the Participants agree otherwise.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorized by the Participants, have signed this MoU in two (2) copies in English language with each Participant holding one copy, both texts being equally authentic.

Done in Dubai..... on this 2nd..... day of the Month of DECEMBER.. in the year 2023.

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



**For the Environment Protection  
Authority  
of the Federal Democratic  
Republic of Ethiopia**

