

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

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

between

THE NEVADA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

and

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

The Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development of the United States of America and the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy, hereafter referred to as "the Signatories",

CONSIDERING that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the resolution n. A/RES/70/1, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*;

RECALLING that the 21st Meeting of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has adopted the Paris Agreement to combat climate change and that the United States of America and Italy have signed the above Agreement on April 22nd, 2016;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the United States of America and the Republic of Italy are Parties to several multilateral environmental agreements including, *inter alia*, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);

CONSIDERING the long-standing cooperation between Joint Declaration signed after the 12th US – Italy Joint Commission meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation, signed in Rome on January 14th, 2016;

WHEREAS during their meeting in Rome on August 4th, 2015, the Governor of the State of Nevada, Mr. Brian Edward Sandoval, and the Italian Minister for the Environment Land and Sea, Mr. Gian Luca Galletti, agreed to work together in order to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding taking also into account the Clean Power Plan launched by the President of the United States of America, Mr. Barack Obama;

Have entered into the following Memorandum:

Article 1

Objective

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding 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 clean and efficient energy, to stimulate and disseminate the economic and technological transformation to low emissions, to ensure energy security, to implement adaptation actions and opportunities to protect the environment and natural resources.

This Memorandum falls within the competences, the responsibilities and the administrative and financial autonomy of the Signatories.

Article 2

Areas of cooperation

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

- a) exchange of best practices and technologies relevant to climate change impacts and assessment;
- b) collection, analysis, and dissemination of meteorological, chemical and ecological data relevant to the observation of climate change and the measurement of its impact on the potentially vulnerable sectors, such as: agriculture, health, ecosystem services, and tourism;
- c) implement a joint program to develop a better understanding of the factors leading to and mitigation of urban flood impacts;
- d) promote collaborative studies to assess decreased river flow due to climate change and other variables;
- e) develop programs to address the impact of sea water intrusion on water quality, water availability, and agricultural production;
- f) promotion and development of climate change mitigation strategies, such as the use of renewable energies;
- g) foster resources sharing, technical cooperation and information exchange;

- h) development of capacities for regional research activities, including impact and adaptation modeling;
- i) implementation of investment strategies to promote commercialization and development of technologies to address climate change issues.

Further areas of cooperation could be included upon approval by the Signatories within the limits of the present Memorandum.

Article 3

Activities

The cooperation between the Signatories will be conducted in the following activities:

- realization of joint projects;
- capacity building, technology transfer and technical assistance;
- exchange of information and materials related to environment, including programs, publications, expertise and studies results;
- exchange of experts, delegations visits and trainees;
- joint organization of workshops, seminars or other meetings;
- reciprocal participation of experts to events and projects;
- promotion of private sector participation and activities to implement Public Private Partnership initiatives.
- enhance cooperation with the non-governmental organizations with regard to important programs and initiatives in the field of environment and sustainable development.

Further activities of cooperation could be included upon approval by the Signatories within the limits of the present Memorandum.

Article 4

Work plan, projects and activities

4.1 In order to ensure the efficient implementation of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding the Signatories will establish a Joint Committee under the provisions of Article 5.

4.2 Upon signature of this Memorandum, the Signatories will appoint the experts who will prepare a medium term work plan to be submitted for approval by the Joint Committee as stipulated in Article 5.

4.3 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 and non-governmental organizations, as well as institutions from both sides.

4.4 Taking into account the legal frameworks of each of the Signatories and their obligations, the implementation of programs, projects and activities will be based on principles of impartiality, equality, reciprocity and common interest.

Article 5

Coordination

5.1 The Joint Committee will be composed by two (2) representatives from the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development and two (2) representatives from the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy.

5.2 The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of Italy will be represented by the Director General of the Directorate for Sustainable Development, Environmental Damage, European Union and International Affairs and one (1) expert.

5.3 The Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development will be represented by the Director of International Trade and one (1) expert from the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE).

5.4 The Joint Committee will provide general direction and advice on cooperation, approve the work plan, supervise and support the cooperation activities, take financial decision for the activities.

5.5 During its first meeting, the Joint Committee will adopt the following rules and procedures:

- *Rules of Procedure* with, in annex, the *Financial Plan* ;
- *Guiding Principles for Bilateral Cooperation Mechanism*.

The Joint Committee will establish the frequency of the meetings and approve the medium term work plan, including projects and activities, as applicable.

5.6 In the subsequent meetings the Joint Committee will:

- coordinate the implementation of the cooperation in the areas specified in Article 2;
- approve detailed activities and projects, including project budget and schedule, to be implemented and financed under the framework of this Memorandum;
- 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 entry into force of this Memorandum.

Article 6

Means of implementation

6.1 The Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy will co-finance the implementation of the projects under this Memorandum of Understanding in an amount that will be decided at a later stage, and notified to the other Signatory during the first meeting of the Joint Committee or the following technical meetings.

6.2. The amount of co-financing from the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development will be allocated at a later stage, and notified to the other Signatory during the first meeting of the Joint Committee or the following technical meetings.

6.3 The Signatories will jointly submit project proposals to various multilateral organizations (*inter alia* the European Commission, the international financial institutions, the United Nations organizations, World Bank), including activities related to the commitments under the UNFCCC and its instruments.

Article 7

Contributions

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

7.2 The Signatories agree that all the financial resources allocated to the programs, projects and activities developed under the provisions of this Memorandum will be subjected to the relevant Signatories provisions with regard to taxation and subsequent rebates. Such financial resources 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 Republic of Italy and the Government of the State of Nevada.

Article 8

Law in force

8.1 This Memorandum will not affect or prevent rights and obligations of the Signatories Parties to third parties.

8.2 This Memorandum will be implemented in conformity with international law principles, international Conventions and Protocols signed by the Signatories, the legislation of the United States of America, the State of Nevada and the Republic of

Italy, as well as with any other obligations arising from the membership of the Republic of Italy in the European Union.

Article 9

Final provisions

9.1 The present Memorandum enters into force at the date of signature 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, its intention to anticipate the termination.

9.2 The provision of this Memorandum may be amended by written agreement between the Signatories.

9.3 Any dispute arising from interpretation and implementation of this Memorandum will be solved by the Signatories directly through consultations.

9.4 Termination of the present Memorandum has no effect on ongoing cooperation projects and/or on initiatives already agreed upon by the Signatories.

Done in Rome, on 17/10/2016 in two (2) originals copies, in English and Italian languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text will prevail and will be used for any dispute and arbitration between the Signatories.

**For the Nevada Governor's Office of
Economic Development**

Director of International Trade

Kristopher Sanchez

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

Director General

Francesco La Camera
