

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

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

Between

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

AND

THE ENVIRONMENT QUALITY AUTHORITY OF PALESTINE

The Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea the Italian Republic and the Environment Quality Authority, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”,

Wishing to strengthen their bilateral cooperation in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development;

Being aware of the global natures of environmental 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 latest admission of Palestine as full member to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, and Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;

Convinced that cooperation between the Parties in the field of environmental protection 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 decision 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 ongoing quest for achieving sustainable development, globally, regionally, nationally and locally, in addition to the decisions of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015;

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 protection and sustainable development on the basis of equality, mutual benefits and in accordance with their laws and regulations, taking into consideration their national environmental policies.

Article 2

The Parties will develop cooperation by concrete initiatives of mutual interest as follows:

- a) Integrated management of solid waste;
- b) Environmental accidents and preparedness for emergencies and early response;
- c) Environmental governance;
- d) Promoting technology transfer and green industrial production;
- e) Strengthening measures and economic instruments to promote environmental and sustainable development;
- f) Environmental education for a sustainable development;
- g) Supporting the identification and implementation of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs);
- h) Capacity building of environment staff including graduate qualification;
- i) Climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- j) Biodiversity and management of protected areas;
- k) Integrated coastal zones management and hydrocarbons marine pollution prevention and control;
- l) Other areas of mutual interest that may be agreed upon by the Parties.

Article 3

The Parties will cooperate through:

- a) Exchange of information and expertise on priority issues for both Parties;
- b) Exchange of delegations and experts;
- c) Joint projects in the fields of environmental management;
- d) Graduate qualification of environmental staff;
- e) Promotion of private sector participation and activities to implement Public Private Partnership initiatives;
- f) Capacity building and technical assistance in the areas mentioned in article 2;
- g) Exchange of information and materials related to environment, including programs, publications, expertise and research results;
- h) Joint organization of workshops, seminars or other meetings to be attended by scientists, experts, professionals of both Parties;
- i) Other forms 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, national research

centers and civil society organizations of the two countries in areas of mutual interest.

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

Article 5

The Parties will establish a Steering Committee (SC) composed of four members, two representatives of the Italian Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea and two representatives of the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority.

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

The SC 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 financial audit.

Following up meetings of the SC 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 MoU of the names of the representatives in the SC.

The works of the SC will be open to the participation, as observers, to the representatives of the diplomatic mission, in accordance with the place where the meetings are held. In any case, each Party will ensure that the activities of the SC will be conducted in coordination with the respective Mission, in order to ensure the highest degree of consistency with the overall dynamic and priorities of the bilateral relations.

Article 6

This MoU will not affect or prevent rights or obligations of the Parties to third Parties.

All activities undertaken for the implementation of this MoU will be carried out in full compliance with the laws and regulations in force for each Party, with the international obligation endorsed by the Parties and, as far as Italy is concerned, with those arising from its membership of the European Union.

Article 7

All activities undertaken for the implementation of this MoU will be carried out within the limits of the funds available in the respective budgets of each Party, without any further financial responsibility on the respective Governments.

The amount for the implementation of the agreed Action Plans will be allocated at a later stage, and notified by the Parties through the Steering Committee meetings.

The Parties will make available the appropriate financial resources to cover the cost of the activities agreed upon, within the limits of the funds available in the respective own budgets.

The Parties agree that all financial resources allocated by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea to develop these initiatives are not liable to tax.

Article 8

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

Article 9

Intellectual property rights will be respected and enforced by the Parties through the cooperation activities implemented under this MoU.

In the event that any joint activities involve intellectual property rights, on the basis of this MoU, the Parties, in accordance with their national legislations, 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

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

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

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

Done in Bethlehem on 23rd of February 2016 in two original copies in English language.

**For the Ministry of
Environment and Protection
of Land and Sea of the
Italian Republic
H.E. Minister Gian Luca Galletti**

**For the Environment Quality
Authority of Palestine
H.E. Chairman Adalah Atteereh**