

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

**CO-OPERATION TO SCALE UP PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN
SUPPORT OF MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE,
INCLUDING ADDRESSING THE DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION AND FOREST
DEGRADATION, AND ENHANCEMENT OF LOW CARBON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

Between

The Ministry for the Environment, Land

and Sea of the Republic of Italy

and

**the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of the
Republic of Ghana**

and

Ministry of Environment of Panama

and

**Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change of Papua
New Guinea**

The Ministry for the Environment and Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy

and

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of the Republic of Ghana

and

The Ministry of Environment of Panama

and

the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change of Papua New Guinea

(Hereafter referred to as “the Signatories”)

RECALLING that the Republic of Italy and the Republic of Ghana, Panama and Papua New Guinea are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Decisions 1/CP.19 and 1/CP.20 of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC which advance the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, according to which, *inter alia* all Parties are invited to identify and communicate their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Decisions 1/CP.16 and 9-15/CP.19 of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC which provides a framework for Parties undertaking actions relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+);

Have entered into the following Memorandum:

Article 1

Objective

1. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to strengthen and coordinate the efforts to combat global climate change and address its adverse effects, and to foster partnership between Ghana, Panama, Papua New Guinea and Italy with a view to address resource gaps in the global

transition towards a green climate friendly, low carbon sustainable development, including REDD-plus efforts and synergistic sectors.

Article 2

Areas of cooperation

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

- a) support of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;
- b) development and implementation of innovative governance structures, financial tools, instruments, models and capacity building programs designed to mobilize and significantly scale up private sector investment that integrate triple-bottom-line principles related to sustainable infrastructure and key economic sectors, such as forests, energy, transportation, etc.;
- c) enhancement of capacities for the implementation of the REDD+ Framework and the related safeguards, including by addressing the drivers of deforestation and land degradation;
- d) scale up private financial flows by leveraging public investments, including private-public partnerships, with a view to enhance the transition towards a low carbon sustainable development, including actions related to the sustainable management of forests;
- e) resources sharing, technical co-operation and information exchange with relevant multilateral climate change initiatives;
- f) further areas of cooperation could be included, upon approval by the Signatories.

Article 3

Work Plan, projects and activities

3.1 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 4.

3.2 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 art. 4

3.4 In the implementation of the programs, projects and activities consideration will be given to the participation of the public, private and non-profit sectors and, including where appropriate, universities, scientific and technical research bodies and non-governmental organizations, as well as institutions on both sides.

3.5 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.

Article 4 **Co-ordination**

4.1 The Joint Committee will be composed by two representatives from the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and one representative of each two State Party.

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

Ministry for the Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of the Republic of Ghana will be represented by its Deputy Director, and one expert.

The Environment Ministry of Panama will be represented by its Vice Minister, and one expert.

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change of Papua New Guinea will be represented by Managing Director or her or his nominee of the Climate Change and Development Authority, and one expert.

4.3 The Joint Committee will provide general direction and advise of cooperation, approve work programs, supervise and support the cooperation activities, take financial decision for the activities.

4.4 During its first meeting, the Joint Committee will:

- adopt rules and procedures and establish the frequency of the meetings;
- approve the medium term work plan, including projects and activities, as applicable.

In the subsequence meetings the Joint Committee will:

- coordinate the implementation of the cooperation in the areas specified in art. 2;
- systematically review and assess the status, progress, results achieved, and lessons learned of the co-operation activities;

- consider new or additional areas of cooperation.

4.5 The Joint Committee will meet within three months after the signature of the present Memorandum.

Article 5

Means of implementation

5.1 The Ministry for the Environment and Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy will finance the implementation of the projects under this Memorandum in an amount not exceeding 2 Million Euro.

5.2 The Signatories may jointly submit project proposals to various multilateral organizations, inter alia: the European Commission, the International Financial Institutions, the United Nations organizations, World Bank, to assist to this partnership and its instruments.

Article 6

Contributions

6.1 Subject to Article 5, any financial resources regarding programs, activities, and projects under this Memorandum will be borne by the Signatories, without any financial responsibility by the respective Central Governments.

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

6.3 The Signatories agree that all the financial resources allocated by the Italian Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea to the programs, projects and activities developed under the provisions of this Memorandum are not liable to tax, in accordance with respective national legislation of each Party and international law provisions.

Article 7

Law in force

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

7.2 This Memorandum will be implemented in conformity with international law principles, international Conventions and Protocols signed by the Signatories, as well as with any other obligations arising from the membership of the Republic of Italy in the European Union.

Article 8

Final Provisions

8.1 The present Memorandum becomes effective on the date of signing and will remain effective for five years (5 years), unless one of the Signatories notifies the other in writing, at least six months in advance, of its intention to terminate it.

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

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

8.4 Termination of the present Memorandum shall have no effect on ongoing co-operation projects, and / or on initiatives already agreed upon by the Signatories.

For the Ministry for the Environment, Science,
Technology and Innovation of the Republic of
Ghana

Honorable Minister

Mahama Ayariga

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

Director General

Dr. Francesco La Camera

For the Ministry of Environment of Panama

Minister

Mr. Mahama Ayariga

For the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and
Climate Change of Papua New Guinea

Minister

Mr. John Pundari

Done in Paris, on 11/12/2015 in four originals copies, in the English language, all texts being
equally authentic.