

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF BIODIVERSITY,
CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY, RISK ASSESSMENT,
ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION**

BETWEEN

**THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF
THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

AND

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

The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of the United Mexican States and the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy, hereafter referred to as “the Parties”,

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 United Mexican States and the Italian Republic are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to the Kyoto Protocol;

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

EMPHASIZING that the Paris Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Decisions 1/CP.16, 9-15/CP.19, 17/CP.21 and 18/CP.21 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+);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, and the Decisions 1/CP.19, 1/CP.20 and 1/CP.21 of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC which invite all Parties to identify and communicate their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;

EMPHASIZING that enhanced action and international cooperation on mitigation and adaptation is urgently required to enable and support the implementation of actions aimed at reducing the emissions and the vulnerability and building climate resilience;

CONSIDERING that Mexico and Italy are committed with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and share common principles in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB), including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in preparation for their respective upcoming COP-13 (Cancun) and COP-17 (Johannesburg);

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1 Objective

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding, within the competences of the Parties, is to strengthen and coordinate the efforts mainstreaming biodiversity in key sectors, to combat global climate change and address its adverse effects, to support mechanisms for regional climate change vulnerability and risk assessment, to stimulate and disseminate the economic and technological transformation to low emissions, to implement adaptation actions and opportunities to protect the environment, ecosystems, biodiversity and ecosystem services in Mexico.

Article 2 Areas of Cooperation

The Parties may cooperate, in particular, in the following areas of common interest:

- a) collection, analysis and dissemination of meteorological data relevant to the observation of climate change and the measurement of its impact on the potentially vulnerable sectors such as: agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism, as foreseen for the upcoming CBD's COP-13;
- b) implementation of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions;
- c) address the drivers of deforestation and land degradation;
- d) reduction of deforestation and forest degradation, through conservation mechanisms such as protected areas, in order to enhance forest carbon stocks and sustainable management of forests;
- e) enhancement of capacities for the implementation of Mechanisms under the UNFCCC and its related instruments;

- f) stimulation and dissemination of the economic and technological transformation towards low carbon development in creating adaptation actions and opportunities;
- g) development of public education and awareness campaigns on mitigation and adaptation including ecosystem based adaptation (EbA) to global climate change;
- h) resources sharing, technical cooperation and information exchange with other global climate change initiatives;
- i) capacity building for monitoring, reporting on climate issues, such as mitigation and adaptation;
- j) integrated coastal management effectiveness and of marine and terrestrial protected areas in order to increase ecological connectivity;
- k) mainstreaming Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) in other relevant sector's adaptation strategies;
- l) sustainable mobility and transport;
- m) integrated water management;
- n) water security and management of extreme events, such as droughts, floods and the prevention and attention of other hydrometeorological emergencies;
- o) urban waste management;
- p) biodiversity and food;
- q) sustainable wildlife trade;
- r) enhancement of biodiversity sustainable use and sustainable production practices;
- s) mainstreaming biodiversity in other relevant sectors.

Further areas of cooperation may be included upon approval by the Parties.

Article 3 **Activities**

The cooperation between the Parties may 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, delegation 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;
- enhancement of cooperation with non-governmental organizations with regard to important programs and initiatives in the field of environment and sustainable development.

Further activities of cooperation may be included upon approval by the Parties.

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 Parties will establish a Joint Committee under the provisions of Article 5.

4.2 Upon signature of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties 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 other institutions from both countries.

4.4 Taking into account the legal frameworks of each of the Parties and their national 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 Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the United Mexican States and two (2) representatives from the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy.

5.2 The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of the United Mexican States will be represented by the Head of the International Affairs Coordination Unit and another official appointed by him, who will be responsible for coordinating the participation of the appropriate Mexican experts.

5.3 The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Republic 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.

5.4 The Joint Committee will provide general direction and advice on cooperation, approve work plans, supervise and support the cooperation activities.

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

- *Rules of Procedure;*
- *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 schedule, to be implemented under the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding;
- 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 of Understanding.

Article 6

Means of Implementation

6.1 Any costs regarding the programs, activities, and projects under the present Memorandum of Understanding will be borne by the Parties, as advised by the Joint Committee and in conformity with the respective national legislation and their budgetary availability.

6.2 The activities of the present Memorandum will be carried out in accordance with the resources of the Parties and will not in any event create additional expenditures for the Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of Italy.

Article 7

Contributions

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

Article 8

Law in Force

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

8.2 This Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented in conformity with international law principles, international Conventions and Protocols signed by the United Mexican States and the Italian Republic, national legislation of Mexico and Italy, as well as with any other obligations arising from the membership of the Italian Republic to the European Union.

Article 9

Final Provisions

9.1 The present Memorandum of Understanding will become effective on the date of its signature and will remain in force for 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, and will be automatically renewed for another five (5) years period, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

9.2 The provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by written agreement between the Parties.

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

9.4 Termination of the present Memorandum of Understanding will have no effect on ongoing cooperation projects, and/or on initiatives already agreed upon by the Parties.

Done in ROMA....., on JULY 20th 2016, in two (2) original copies, in English, Spanish and Italian languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text will prevail.

**For the Ministry of the
Environment and Natural Resources
of the United Mexican States**

Rafael Pacchiano Alamán

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

Gian Luca Galletti

