



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

**COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

between

**THE MINISTRY FOR THE
ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC**

and

**THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA**

The Ministry for the Ecological Transition of the Italian Republic (MiTE) and the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Argentina (MAyDS), hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”;

Considering 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 MiTE’s 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 Republic of Argentina are Parties to the Rio Conventions: the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

Recalling that the UNFCCC has adopted the Paris Agreement to combat climate change on its 21st Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and that the Italian Republic and the Republic of Argentina have signed the above Agreement on April 22nd, 2016;

Considering 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, which invite all Parties to identify and communicate their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and that in 2016 the Republic of Argentina presented the first “Nationally Determined Contribution” under the UNFCCC;

Taking also into account National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAPs) developed according to Article 6 of the UNCBD 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 international cooperation on sustainable development is urgently required to enable and support the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the abovementioned Conventions;

Acknowledging the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of climate change vulnerability, risk assessment, adaptation and mitigation signed on May 8th, 2017 between the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Argentina;

Considering that, in the framework of the abovementioned Memorandum of Understanding, a project has been approved on August 27th, 2018 but it is yet to be implemented;

Being willing to continue such cooperation, broadening its scope and areas of activities, renewing its means of implementation and enhancing its monitoring and reporting procedures;

Have entered into the following Memorandum of Understandings (hereinafter “MoU”):

Article 1

Purpose and Scope

1.1 This MoU aims at strengthening international cooperation for sustainable development between the Participants.

1.2 Within the competences of the Participants, this MoU mainly operates in accordance with the following SDG's and objectives under the following Conventions (UNCBD, 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),
- promote sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources (SDG 14),
- protect, restoring and enhancing sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage 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 pinpoint further objectives.

Article 2

Joint Initiatives

2.1 The Participants will undertake 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 (NDC);
 - 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 forests management and of actions aimed at preventing and fighting fires; enhancement of early warning, hazard assessment, fire management and compilation of statistics system. This may include the use of satellite systems for monitoring emissions and removals of greenhouse gases (GHG) and other polluting gases;
 - f) Promotion of sustainable and integrated land use;
 - g) Integrated Coastal Zones Management and Hydrocarbons Marine Pollution Prevention and Control;
 - h) Ensure the sustainable and integrated management of water resources;
 - i) Technology transfer and capacity building in air, water, soil quality monitoring and renewable energy (including hydrogen);
 - j) Sustainable waste management (including chemicals substances and products throughout their life cycle, solid urban waste, special waste of universal generation, and hazardous waste), support to define strategies for different types of waste, and development of circular economy;
 - k) Development of public education and awareness campaigns on global climate change and sustainable development;
 - l) 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 identify 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;

- implementation of projects, programs and activities, giving high consideration to the participation of public, private and non-profit sectors, also including, where appropriate, universities, scientific and technical research bodies, non-governmental organizations 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, relevant documentation, including publications, expertise and study results;
 - exchange of experts, delegation visits and trainees, also involving universities, research centres, and 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 programs/projects.
- 3.3 Within the scope and limits of this MoU, the Participants may consensually pinpoint further activities of cooperation.

Article 4

Coordination

- 4.1 In order to ensure the effective and full implementation of the provisions of this MoU, the Participants will establish a Joint Committee within 30 days from the signature of the present MoU.
- 4.2 The Joint Committee will be composed by the delegation of the representatives from the Ministry for the Ecological Transition of the Italian Republic and the delegation of the representatives from the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Argentina
- 4.3. Each Participant will nominate a Head of Delegation, who represents the 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 will adopt the relevant decisions for their realization.
- 4.5 Over the course of its first meeting, which will be convened within 6 months after the signature of the present MoU, the Joint Committee will adopt:
- (its) Rules of procedure;
 - 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

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appropriate indicators, with the aim to ensure ownership, result-oriented approach, efficiency, transparency and accountability of the initiatives.

- 4.6 Guiding principles for bilateral cooperation mechanism will also establish procedures for the implementation of the approved projects and initiatives resulting from the abovementioned prior MoU and/or still ongoing at the date of termination of the present MoU.
- 4.7 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).
- 4.8 The Joint Committee will also approve a mid-term Work Plan that includes project proposals and activities with references to SDGs and targets to which they contribute.
- 4.9 In the subsequent meetings, the Joint Committee will approve detailed activities and projects, including project budget and schedule as well as appropriate indicators to monitor their realization, to be implemented and financed, under the framework of this MoU; 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 Any costs regarding the subject including programmes, activities, and projects under this MoU will be borne by the Participants, in compliance with their respective legislation, within the limits of their ordinary budget availability and without any additional cost for the State Budgets of the Italian Republic and of the Republic of Argentina.
- 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, after a prior approval 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 Republic of Argentina for implementing relevant commitments set under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

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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 IMELS to the programs, projects and activities, developed under the provisions of this MoU, are not liable to tax, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Argentina or any other applicable laws.

Article 7

Law in force

- 7.1 This MoU does not constitute an international agreement which may lead to rights and obligations under international law. None of the provisions of this MoU will create any form of rights and obligations for the Participants.
- 7.2 This MoU will be implemented in accordance with the legislations of the Italian Republic and the Republic of Argentina, 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 by MiTE and MAyDS throughout the cooperation activities implemented under this MoU. Should any joint activity involve intellectual property rights, MiTE and MAyDS, in accordance with their respective legislations, will reciprocally determine, specify in writing in advance what constitutes intellectual property right as well as the adequate and effective protection of those intellectual property rights.

Article 9

Final provisions

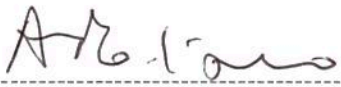
- 9.1 This MoU supersedes any prior MoU dealing with same issues between the Participants that is currently effective. This MoU also supersedes any other non-internationally binding instruments between the Participants, regardless of their qualification, which deals with the same subject.
- 9.2 The provisions of this MoU may be amended in writing by mutual consent of the Participants.
- 9.3 Any difference in the interpretation and/or implementation of this MoU will be settled amicably through direct consultations or negotiations between the Participants.



- 9.4 The present MoU takes effect on the date of signature and will remain valid for a period of 5 years, unless one of the Participants notifies the other of its intention to terminate it at least six (6) months prior to the intended date of expiration.
- 9.5 The Participants may renew this MoU for additional periods of 5 years in writing by mutual consent.

Signed in Sharm El Sheikh, on November 11th of 2022 in two (2) originals in the English language.

**For the Ministry for the
Ecological Transition of the Italian
Republic**



**For the Ministry of the Environment
and Sustainable Development of the
Republic of Argentina**

