

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

And

THE COMPETENT BELGIAN AUTHORITIES at FEDERAL and REGIONAL LEVEL FOR ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Environment of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Competent Belgian government authorities at federal and regional level for Environment (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”);

RECOGNIZING that both Iran and Belgium have ambitious targets regarding the further implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, in particular for the environmental dimension;

INTENDING to establish successful, long term cooperation between their respective countries in matters relating to environmental issues;

CONVINCED of the necessity of a lasting and effective cooperation in the interest of both Parties;

HAVE REACHED the following understanding:

ARTICLE I: OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship to encourage and promote technical bilateral cooperation on environmental issues on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity;

This Memorandum of Understanding describes fields, activities and modalities of organization in order to encourage and enhance cooperation between the Parties.

ARTICLE II: AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Parties will, subject to the laws, rules and national policies in force regulating the subject matter in their respective countries endeavor to take necessary steps to encourage and promote cooperation on environmental issues. Cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding may focus on the following areas:

- Sustainable use and management of natural resources including biodiversity, waste and material management, mapping and appreciation of ecosystem services
- Monitoring, management and protection of water, soil and air quality
- Climate change, renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Green and circular economy and clean technologies
- Biodiversity including its marine dimension
- Marine and coastal management and marine protection strategies
- Resource efficiency
- Smart cities in line with the City Prosperity Indices for Metropolitan Cities
- Other areas of cooperation may be decided upon later by the Parties

ARTICLE III: MODALITIES OF COOPERATION

Cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding may take the following modalities:

- Exchange of experiences in the field of environmental issues
- Exchange and training of academic, scientific and technical personnel;
- Exchange of scientific and technological available information and data;
- Organization of workshops, seminars, training courses, field visits and working groups;
- Development of joint research or technical projects on subjects of mutual interest;
- Exploration of business opportunities for the business sector;
- Transfer of environmental equipment, know-how and technology on a non-commercial basis;
- Other modalities as may be decided upon later by the Parties

ARTICLE IV: JOINT WORKING GROUP

In order to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the above mentioned activities, the Parties shall establish a Joint Working Group (JWG). The JWG can co-opt other members from scientific institutions, research centers, universities or any other entity as mutually agreed.

The Joint Working Group shall conduct its work, to the extent possible, by means of electronic communication and meet frequently, as appropriate including in the margins of meetings of Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Other Thematic Joint Sub Working Groups focusing on specific thematic areas may also be created under the Joint Working Group.

ARTICLE V: FINANCING

Each party will bear all the costs of its own participation in all programs of cooperation and in the meetings contemplated under this Memorandum of Understanding unless otherwise agreed.

Activities and exchanges under this memorandum of Understanding do not exclude any other initiatives or visits that were agreed upon by the Parties through their diplomatic channels or direct mutual agreement

The respective governments under this agreement are free to finance any additional specific project.

ARTICLE VI: RELATION TO OTHER AGREEMENTS

This MoU and its exclusive arrangements will not prejudice the performance arising out of other Bilateral; Multilateral or International agreements which are signed and ratified or will be by the Parties.

ARTICLE VII: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Any dispute between the Parties in interpretation or implementation of this MoU will be settled amicably through negotiations by competent authorities, and through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE:VIII AMENDMENT

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended, revised or modified by mutual decision of the Parties through exchange of letters between the Parties.

ARTICLE: IX ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION AND TERMINATION

1. The Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of its signature, and shall remain in force for a period of 5 years.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding may be renewed by mutual consent of the Parties.
3. Either Party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding. Such decision will be communicated in writing to the other Party at least three months prior to its termination. The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding

shall not affect the validity and duration of any ongoing programme and projects under this Memorandum of Understanding.

4. This Memorandum of Understanding is not legally binding and does not create any rights of obligations for the Parties under international law.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, The undersigned being duly authorized thereto have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed at Brussels on 12th December 2016 in two originals each, in English and Farsi Languages.

In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Massoumeh Ebtekar

Vice President and

Head of Department of Environment



**For the Government of the
Islamic Republic of Iran**

Marie Christine Marghem

**Federal Minister for Energy,
Environment and Sustainable
Development**

**For the Competent Belgian
authorities at Federal and
Regional level for Environment,
Government of Belgium**