

*Joint Declaration*

*Between*

*The Government of the Italian Republic*

*And*

*The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt*

*For the Implementation of a*

*Socio Economic Development Program*

*In the North West Coast Area*

The Government of the Italian Republic, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, represented by the Ministry of International Cooperation, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

*Recognizing*

The long term partnership on bilateral development cooperation between Italy and Egypt and their desire to enhance and consolidate the existing cooperation;

*Considering*

The Joint Declaration on the Enhancement of Bilateral Development Cooperation between the Italian and the Egyptian Governments, signed on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in which both Governments identified the priority areas and sectors for the three-year 2010-2012 bilateral Cooperation Program;

*Considering*

the Scientific and Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt signed on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1975, and its additional Protocol which has been replaced by the Framework Agreement on Development Cooperation signed by the two Governments on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010;

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***Underscoring***

Their commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in the fight against poverty and promotion of sustainable development;

***Recognizing***

The special Partnership between Italy and Egypt and its focus on the socio-economic dimension;

The priority attached by the Egyptian Government to supporting the implementation of the approved National Plan for the Development of the North West Coast and Inland Desert;

***Considering***

The great potential of the region and the need of promoting sustainable social and economic development in the priority areas of agriculture, handicraft and tourism;

***All of the above being stated***

The Parties agree to the following:

1. Promote a model of endogenous sustainable development in the North West Coast and Inland Desert area on a regional scale, relying on the active participation of the local population, on their traditions, on local material and human resources.
2. Support developing pioneering projects aimed at preserving the environment while achieving benefits from the natural resources abounding in the region; promoting income generating activities and providing job opportunities to the local communities.
3. The Italian Government will contribute to the abovementioned activities with a start-up grant of 1.000.000 Euro as soon as resources are made available by the relevant Italian Financial Law.

In witness whereof, the undersigned have signed the present Joint Declaration in Rome on 19 May 2010 in two originals in the English language.

**For the Government**

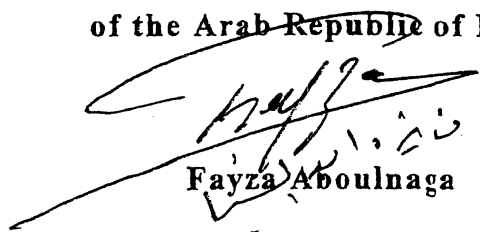
**of the Italian Republic**

  
**Franco Frattini**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**For the Government**

**of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

  
**Fayza Aboulnaga**

**Minister of International Cooperation**