

Joint Declaration

between

The Government of the Italian Republic

and

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt

***on the Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Program-
phase III***

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of the Italian Republic, acting through the Directorate General of Cooperation for Development (DGCD) and the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt (MSEA), acting through the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), hereinafter referred to as "Parties", express their appreciation for the outstanding results achieved in the frame of the Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Program Phase I and Phase II.

Considering

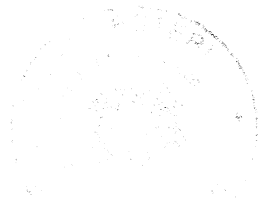
the consolidated partnership between Italy and Egypt in the field of enhancement and conservation of environmental and cultural heritage present in Egypt, particularly in its Protected Areas;

Having regard

to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on November, 2003 between the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Directorate General of Cooperation for Development (DGCD) and the Egyptian Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (MSEA)/Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA);

Considering

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



Page 1+3 B

Taking in to consideration

the Development Cooperation Framework Agreement between the Italian and the Egyptian Governments, signed on January 17th, 2010;

Taking notice

of the environmental priorities of the Egyptian Government reflected in the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) for the period 2002-2017, which include: (i) protecting the biodiversity and promoting the sound management of national parks; (ii) supporting the institutional capacity required for management of natural resources at the national level; (iii) benefiting from international cooperation opportunities in the field of environment to solve the environmental problems in Egypt;

Whereas

the NEAP (2002-2017) is designed to be the framework that coordinates for future environmental activities in support of sustainable development in Egypt, in line with the resolutions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) of June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro (Earth Summit), and the World Summit in Johannesburg, September 2002;

Considering

the importance of complementing the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) program in Egypt "Strengthening Protected Area Financing and Management Systems", implemented by UNDP and aiming at establishing a sustainable protected area financing system to ensure the effective use of generated revenues for priority biodiversity conservation needs;

Considering

the specific nature of the Italian-Egyptian partnership, focused on field initiatives, integrated by actions aimed at enhancing the environmental legal and institutional framework;

Bearing in mind

the most significant results of the Italian-Egyptian partnership, such as: i) the Wadi el Hitan Unesco Declaration as a World Heritage site by Unesco; ii) the promulgation of the legislation reform n.9/2009 on Egyptian environmental protection; iii) the use of advanced technology, also adopted by Unesco, on the environmental risk map for the sustainable management of archaeological sites, applied to Saqqara and

Medinet Madi archaeological sites; as well as iv) the promotion of a sound management of the White Desert National Park (WDNP) and the Gilf Kebir National Park (GKNP);

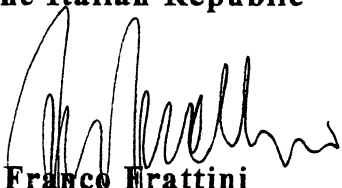
All of the above being stated

1. The Parties declare their determination in consolidating and enhancing the already successful partnership, with special attention and regard to the sustainable development and management of protected areas, in order to preserve natural resources, biological diversity and national heritage.
2. The Parties will contribute at enhancing the Egyptian Protected Areas of the Western Desert, with particular reference to the Protected Areas of Fayoum, New Valley and Marsa Matrouh Governorates, as well as at identifying new initiatives according to the GEF program's expected outputs and results.
3. The future collaboration will be put forward through an additional fund of the DGCD, amounting to 3 million Euros, in the frame of the third phase of the Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Program, as soon as resources are made available in the relevant Italian Financial Law.
4. In light of the above, the Parties agree to jointly implement the third phase of the Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Program for the three-year period 2010-2012.
5. The third phase of the Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Program (EIECP 3) will aim at strengthening the cooperation in the field of environment, established through Phase I and Phase II, focusing on Protected Areas.
6. In particular, EIECP 3 will focus on the following:
 - strengthening the Egyptian environmental legislation in the field of Protected Areas and promotion of its application through capacity building and training activities;
 - enhancing the management units of the Protected Areas, by supporting institutional capacities;
 - contributing to the social and economic development of local communities surrounding the Protected Areas;
 - conjugating the protection, safeguard and enhancement of environmental and cultural heritage of the Protected Areas;
 - promoting sustainable tourism initiatives, making a low impact on the environment and local culture.


7. The Parties will endeavor to guarantee the coordination and all the possible synergies among the actions supported at bilateral level between Italy and Egypt, such as the Commodity Aid Program, and the ones supported by other multilateral organizations, with particular reference to the projects financed by the GEF, of which Italy is an important contributor.
8. Furthermore, the parties will endeavor to promote partnerships between Italian and Egyptian renowned Institutions, Universities and Centers of excellence.

In witness thereof, the undersigned have signed the present Joint Declaration in Rome on May 19th, 2010, in two original copies 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**


Ahmed Aboul Gheit
Minister of Foreign Affairs

