

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF NORWAY AND THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES

The Ministry of Environment of Norway and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the United Mexican States, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”,

RECOGNIZING that poverty reduction and economic development are overall goals for human welfare;

BEARING IN MIND that climate change is among the greatest challenges that the world is facing today;

RECALLING that the United Mexican States and Norway are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol;

CONSIDERING that the Preamble to the UNFCCC acknowledges that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions;

RECALLING the importance of cooperation between countries in addressing the challenges posed by climate change;

RECOGNIZING that cooperation on climate change issues, including in the implementation of pilot activities, can be an instrument to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions on a global scale, and have a positive impact on community, social and economic development;

NOTING that the main goal of the United Mexican States and Norway’s climate policy is to accomplish the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and to establish national policies that ensure that they contribute beyond their fair share to achieve this goal;

EMPHASIZING the importance of actions to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries as these are among the main sources of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

EXPRESSING the political will to develop a lasting process of cooperation on matters relating to global climate change, forests and related social and environmental issues.

Have reached the following understanding:

ARTICLE 1 OBJECTIVE

The objective of the present Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to build upon and strengthen cooperation between the Parties in climate change, forests and environmental issues.

ARTICLE 2 AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Parties will build upon and strengthen cooperation, directing their efforts at increasing collaboration in areas of mutual interest including the following:

1. Political dialogue to facilitate constructive exchange of views regarding climate change, forests and related social and environmental issues. Such dialogue will cover, inter alia, measures to enhance the certainty and predictability of adequate climate financing for climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as policies and instruments to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), such as the Interim Partnership for REDD+ established in Oslo on May 27th 2010.
2. Cooperation in specific areas of relevance to the implementation of strategies and policies for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), with the twofold aim to strengthen the United Mexican States' REDD+ implementation and to contribute to the global knowledge base on methodologies and approaches, including monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV). Focus will be given to activities related to the implementation of the Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in the United Mexican States, especially within areas where Mexican experiences may

be of particular value as input and guidance to the efforts of other REDD+ countries, including, but not limited to:

- a. Developing a national system for the monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals of sinks, forest carbon stocks and natural forest area changes in accordance with UNFCCC decisions and methodological guidance.
 - b. The design and management of locally adapted incentive systems to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.
3. Promote the dissemination of the Mexican experiences in REDD+, particularly those related to MRV and locally adapted incentive systems to other REDD+ countries, in particular promote regional exchange of experiences and capacities on REDD+ in Central America and the Caribbean.
 4. Contributions to the deliberations on a REDD+ mechanism as part of the post 2012 global climate regime, particularly focusing on contributions to an efficient process leading up to COP 16 in Cancún.
 5. Explore the potential for cooperation on REDD related matters between academic and research institutions in each country.
 6. Other matters as may be decided upon by the Parties

ARTICLE 3 SPECIFIC COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

This MOU will be implemented through specific cooperation activities in which other public or private institutions of each country, or multilateral organizations and programmes, may be invited to participate. Each specific cooperation activity will be specified through additional terms of references or agreements and will determine among others, the objectives; modalities of cooperation; timeline for implementation; allocation of human and material resources; financing; coordinating authorities; responsibilities of each Participant; publication and spread of results; and any other information that the Participants deem appropriate.

ARTICLE 4 FOCAL POINTS

To contribute to efficient cooperation, each of the Parties will designate a person responsible for the coordination of the activities under this MOU.

The coordinators may prepare and facilitate the political dialogues described under the Article 2.1 of this Memorandum of Understanding, exchange information relevant to its implementation whenever necessary, and may also hold and/or facilitate meetings if it is necessary.

The United Mexican States will be represented by the Head of the International Affairs Coordination Unit of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Head of the National Forestry Commission.

The Ministry of Environment of Norway will be represented by the Director of the Government of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative.

ARTICLE 5 FINANCING

Cooperative activities under this MOU shall be implemented according to the appropriations of the Parties and legal regulations of each country.

Each Party will cover the accommodation, the traveling costs and daily allowances of its officials members and experts participating at the meetings and actions agreed upon within the framework of this MOU, in accordance with their own budgetary regulations and availability, if not otherwise agreed in terms of reference or agreements as described in Article 3.

ARTICLE 6 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Memorandum shall be settled through direct negotiations between the Parties.

This MOU is voluntary and not legally binding.

Nothing in this Memorandum will affect any right or obligation of the Parties deriving from any bilateral and multilateral agreements.

ARTICLE 7 DURATION AND AMENDMENT

This MOU will come into operation on signature and may be terminated at any time by either of the Parties, by written notification, through diplomatic channels.

This MOU may be modified by mutual consent of the Participants, formalized through written communications.

The anticipated termination of the present MOU will not affect the completion of the activities formalized while it was in force.

The foregoing represents the understandings reached between the Participants upon the matters referred to therein.

The undersigned, acting on behalf of their respective Party, have signed this MoU in Oslo on May 27th 2010, in two originals in the Spanish language and two originals in the English language. In case of inconsistencies between the versions the English version shall prevail.

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF
NORWAY**

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



**ERIK SOLHEIM
MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**



**JUAN RAFAEL ELVIRA QUESADA
SECRETARY**