

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**the Ministry of Water and Environmental Protection of
Romania**

and

**the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs of Arab
Republic of Egypt**

on Co-operation in the Field of Environmental Protection

The Ministry of Water and Environmental Protection of Romania and the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs of Arab Republic of Egypt, hereinafter referred to as “Parties”,

Recognizing that many environmental problems are of cross-border nature and require international cooperation, through both bilateral and multilateral conventions and that cooperation between national environmental authorities can be of mutual benefit at national, regional and global level,

Recognizing the significance of sustainable development approach for the protection and enhancement of the environment as well as for the health and well-being of the present and future generations and sharing the commitment to implement the principles set out in “Agenda 21”,

Wishing to strengthen the cooperation in the framework of specific international conventions to whom the Parties or their states are parties and in conformity with the final documents of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002),

Bearing in mind the need for closer scientific and technical co-operation for the protection of environment and conservation of natural resources,

Have agreed upon the following:

Article 1

In order to reduce the environmental pollution and to protect the nature, on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit, the Parties shall develop and promote co-operation in the field of environmental protection, including the transfer of know-how and technology.

Article 2

The main areas of co-operation shall be the following:

- a) Reduction, control and monitoring of air pollution
- b) Biological diversity and nature protection
- c) Waste management
- d) Water quality and conservation of rivers
- e) Marine environment protection
- f) Biological systems for retaining some pollutants from wastewater
- g) Treatment of municipal wastewater for agricultural purposes
- h) Development of the education system for environmental protection

Article 3

The Parties shall co-operate in the following forms:

- a) organization of meetings, workshops, symposia, exhibitions;
- b) training and exchange of specialists;
- c) exchange of scientific and technical information and data, as well as relevant results in the field of research;
- d) joint scientific-technical research and elaboration of common projects;
- e) any other form of co-operation deemed necessary by the Parties.

Article 4

The Parties, acting within their competence and in compliance with their specific national legislation, shall assist in establishing direct relations between third-party stakeholders to initiate joint programs and/or projects in the field of environmental protection.

Article 5

1. For the fulfilment of the commitments under the present Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "MoU"), the Parties shall establish a Joint Steering Committee.
2. The co-presidents of the Joint Steering Committee are the Ministers in charge of environment protection of Romania and the Arab Republic of Egypt. Where necessary, the Ministers shall be substituted by the representatives appointed by them.
3. For the fulfillment of its tasks, the Joint Steering Committee shall establish permanent expert groups and put them in charge of the fulfillment of work necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this MoU. The Joint Steering Committee may create further ad-hoc expert groups for the fulfillment of agreed individual specific tasks.
4. The Joint Steering Committee shall develop its activity according to its Rules of Organization and Functioning.
5. Tasks of coordination and secretariat in relation with the appropriate implementation of this MoU shall be performed by the Directorate for European Integration, International Relations - Ministry of Waters and Environmental Protection of Romania and the General Department for International Affairs and Technical Cooperation in the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency - Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt.
6. Within 30 days after the entry into force of this MoU, the Parties shall notify each other the name of their focal points.
7. Either Party may designate a substitute of its focal point any time upon written notice to the other Party.

Article 6

1. A meeting of the Joint Steering Committee regarding the implementation status of this MoU shall be organized annually. This forum can also discuss environmental issues not directly related to the working programme which could be of interest to both Parties.
2. These meetings shall be organized alternately in Romania and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Article 7

1. The external traveling costs and daily allowances of experts participating for the implementation of the working programme or other actions agreed upon within the framework of this MoU shall be covered by the sending Party, unless otherwise agreed.
2. The cost of accommodation and local transport in the host state shall be covered by the host Party.

Article 8

This MoU shall not be interpreted so as to prejudice the rights and obligations of the Parties which result from other agreements in force concluded by each of the two Parties or their States under international law.

Article 9

Any divergence that may arise from the interpretation or implementation of this MoU shall be solved by consultations between the Parties.

Article 10

1. The MoU shall enter into force on the day following the date of the receipt of the latter written notification by which the Parties inform each other that their national legal requirements for its entry into force have been completed.
2. The MoU shall remain in force for a period of five years; afterwards its validity shall be automatically extended for further periods of five years, unless either Parties notifies its intention to terminate the MoU three months before the expiration of the period of its validity.

3. The MoU may be supplemented or amended upon the mutual consent of the Parties. These modifications shall be concluded as protocols to this MoU and shall constitute integral parts thereof. These modifications shall enter into force according to the procedure established in paragraph 1 of the present Article .

Signed in Cairo on April 14, 2003, in two original copies in the English language.

**For the Ministry of Water
and Environmental Protection
of Romania**

Petru LIFFICIU

MINISTER



**For the Ministry of State
for Environmental Affairs
of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

Mamdouh RIAD

MINISTER

