



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
AND
THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY SECURITY
OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security of the Italian Republic (MASE) hereinafter also referred to jointly as the “Participants” and individually as the “Participant”,

Considering the United States-Italy Joint Leaders’ Statement issued by President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni April 18, 2025;

Recalling the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Italian Republic for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, done at Rome April 1, 1988, as amended and extended at Washington, D.C. October 4, 1993 (“the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation”);

Recognizing the common environmental challenges faced by both countries and the importance of bilateral cooperation to address these issues;

Aiming to strengthen capacity through achieving effective and efficient policies and programming around large-scale events, with an emphasis on food loss and waste, municipal solid waste, advanced recycling, water reuse and recycling, and circular economy approaches;

Acknowledging EPA’s “Feed it Onward” initiative that connects food donors and organizations leading on food waste reduction with communities in need while reducing the environmental impact of food waste in landfills, and Italy and MASE’s endeavors to host sustainable large-scale events, including the Milano-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics;

Anticipating the United States’ hosting of the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics; and

Resolving to build on and benefit from the already strong relationship between the two Governments, based on a foundation of similar environmental values and goals;

Have reached the following understanding:

Section 1: Objective

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to promote bilateral cooperation, as well as regional and/or multilateral initiatives, as appropriate, on critical environmental issues of mutual interest to the Participants.

Section 2: Framework

1. Cooperative activities under this MOU are intended to be conducted in accordance with the respective applicable laws and regulations of the United States and Italy, applicable international law, and the applicable obligations arising from Italy's membership in the European Union.
2. This MOU does not constitute an international agreement and does not give rise to any legal rights or obligations under national or international law.
3. The Participants intend to conduct cooperative voluntary activities under this MOU to promote a climate of open exchange and cooperation on environmental issues of mutual interest and based on fairness, reciprocity, and mutual benefit.

Section 3: Areas of Cooperation

Specific areas of cooperation are intended to be mutually determined by the Participants and may include the following areas, including their incorporation at large-scale events:

1. Reduction in food loss and waste;
2. Strengthening environmentally sound waste management;
3. Promotion of recycling, including advanced recycling efforts;
4. Promotion of circular economy approaches;
5. Addressing air quality management;
6. Inclusion of public education efforts of national, sub-national, and local partners, as appropriate to each Participant's system of government;
7. Promotion of water reuse and recycling to support growing energy demands; and
8. Other areas as identified by the Participants, within their competencies.

Section 4: Forms of Cooperation

The Participants intend to cooperate at the technical level, including through the exchange of information and experiences, and, where appropriate, joint research and collaboration. Cooperation under this MOU may include, but is not limited to, the following activities:

1. Policy dialogues;
2. Transfer or exchange of technical information, as approved in writing in advance by the transferring Participant;
3. Joint projects to demonstrate improved environmental management approaches;
4. Study tours and visitor exchanges; and
5. Other forms of cooperation as mutually determined by the Participants.

Section 5: Implementation

1. The Participants intend to develop a workplan to implement this MOU. Specific cooperative activities and the provisions under which they expect to be conducted may be described in this workplan.
2. The Participants may encourage and facilitate the engagement and participation of relevant stakeholders such as research organizations, universities, other government agencies, and local communities, as appropriate, in cooperative activities under this MOU.
3. The Participants plan to each designate a principal representative who, at such times as the Participants mutually determine, may meet to review the ongoing activities under this MOU and develop proposals for future activities, as appropriate.

Section 6: Funding

1. The Participants recognize that collaboration under this MOU does not represent a commitment of funds, personnel, or other resources. Additionally, collaboration by EPA under this MOU is subject to availability of appropriated funds. Nothing in this MOU obligates EPA or MASE to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement, or incur other financial obligations.
2. The Participants intend not to seek compensation for services rendered in connection with activities carried out in furtherance of this MOU.

3. This MOU does not exempt MASE from EPA policies governing competition for assistance agreements.
4. Any transaction involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the Participants is expected to be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures under separate written agreements or arrangements, as appropriate.
5. The expenses arising from the implementation of this MOU are expected to be covered by the Participants according to their ordinary budget availability without creating any financial obligation for the Participants or additional costs to the public finances of the United States of America or the Italian Republic.

Section 7: Intellectual Property and Security

Annex I to the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation will apply to any intellectual property rights created or transferred during any cooperative activity carried out under this MOU.

Section 8: Non-Endorsement

Pursuant to U.S. Federal ethics rules, EPA employees may not endorse or promote products or services offered by any non-federal entity. Nothing in this MOU constitutes an endorsement by either Participant of the other Participant, including any products or services, or any fundraising activity or promotion. Nothing in this provision prevents the Participants from speaking factually about their participation in this MOU. Use of EPA's or MASE's official seals or logos should not be permitted for any activities associated with this MOU without the advanced written permission from EPA's or MASE's Office of External Affairs.

Section 9: Modification and Interpretation

1. This MOU may be modified by mutual decision of the Participants. Any modifications should be made in writing and are expected to become operative on such a date to be determined jointly by the Participants.
2. Any difference in the interpretation and/or implementation of this MOU should be settled amicably through direct consultations and negotiations between the Participants.

Section 10: Final Provisions

1. This MOU becomes operative on the date of its signing by both Participants, or on the later date of signature if the Participants do not sign on the same date. This MOU is intended to remain valid for three (3) years from the date it becomes operative.
2. Either Participant may discontinue this MOU at any time by giving the other Participant a written notification of its decision to discontinue this MOU.
3. The discontinuation of this MOU is not intended to affect the implementation of any programs and activities already commenced under this MOU and which may continue until their completion, unless otherwise decided in writing by the Participants.

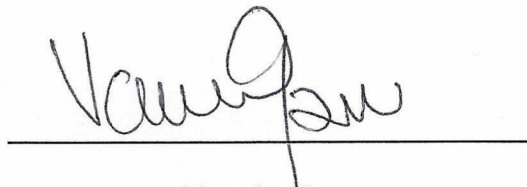
SIGNED at **HOUSTON**, on this **15th** day of **SEPTEMBER 2026**, in two originals, in the English language.

**FOR THE UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY:**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lee Zeldin", written over a horizontal line.

**Lee M. Zeldin
Administrator, EPA**

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY SECURITY
OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC:**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Vannia Gava", written over a horizontal line.

**Vannia Gava
Deputy Minister, MASE**