

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

AND

**THE MINISTRY FOR ENVIRONMENT OF THE PORTUGUESE
REPUBLIC**

The **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe** (hereinafter referred to as “UNECE”), represented by Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary

and

The **Ministry for Environment of the Portuguese Republic**, represented by Mr. Carlos Martins, Secretary of State for Environment

hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”,

- **RECOGNIZING** the desire of the Parties to establish and develop cooperation with a view to promoting the UNECE Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) Initiative and in particular the international PPP standards developed by the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence as tools for social and economic development and a means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

- **TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the desire of the Parties to establish an appropriate mechanism for such cooperation,

hereby agree to the following

Article 1

- (1) The Parties agree to cooperate and promote the overall UNECE PPP Initiative and the UNECE work in the water sector, *inter alia*:
 - (a) Promotion of the goals and objectives of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence (hereinafter referred to as “UNECE ICoE”) in Geneva, Switzerland, as an integral part of the UNECE secretariat;
 - (b) Promotion of the implementation of the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health in the pan-European region;
 - (c) The establishment of an International PPP Specialist Centre of Excellence on PPPs in Water and Sanitation in Portugal (hereinafter

referred to as “the Centre”) to identify international PPP best practices and case studies in support of the development of the UNECE international PPP standards on Water and Sanitation hosted by LNEC *Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil*, a public institution operating under the mission to undertake, coordinate and promote scientific research and technological development, located in Lisbon; and

(d) Other areas of common interest on PPPs.

(2) The Centre will, among other things:

(a) Assist the United Nations and its Member States achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;

(b) Support the development of the UNECE People-First PPP Programme by:

i. Identifying international best practices;

ii. Collecting case studies in the water and sanitation sector; and

iii. Support the UNECE international Project Teams developing PPP standards in the water and sanitation sector.

(c) Provide assistance, on a best efforts basis, to low and middle income countries that are considering People- First PPPs as a feasible solution for water supply and sanitation services;

(d) Become a depository of information and best practice models that can be useful to People-First PPP practitioners in the Water and Sanitation sector worldwide;

(e) Host meetings and work close with international experts and also developing a network of PPP specialists in the water and sanitation sector;

(f) Report to the UNECE the overall performance on a regular basis;

(g) Organize international events specialized in the water and sanitation sector;

(h) Retain and attract talents and experts (both local and international) and create jobs for young graduates in the water and sanitation sector; and

(i) Encourage local and international entrepreneurship and research in the water and sanitation sector.

(3) Within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the “Memorandum”), the Parties will be guided by general principles of international law and shall cooperate in accordance with the principles of equity, transparency, reciprocity and neutrality, as well as in accordance with UN Rules and Regulations.

(4) The Parties will work together towards the implementation of the provisions of this Memorandum through their authorized representatives, as designed by the Parties.

Article 2

- (1) Any modifications or changes to the present Memorandum shall be made in writing with the consent of both Parties, and shall take effect on the date of signature by the Parties.

Article 3

- (1) This Memorandum is concluded for a period of five (5) years, with the possibility of an extension, subject to the agreement of the Parties, and it shall enter into force upon the signature by both Parties. The Memorandum shall remain valid until such time as any Party provides a written notice of termination to the other Party with a minimum notice period of six (6) months.

Article 4

- (1) Each Party shall appoint an authorized representative, who shall act on behalf of that Party in respect of the implementation of the present Memorandum. The information for each Party's authorized representative is provided in Annex 1.

Article 5

- (1) The Parties agree to work towards the resolution of any dispute arising in connection with the application and/or interpretation of the present Memorandum in a spirit of cooperation and good faith, through communication between each Party authorized representative identified in Annex 1.
- (2) If a dispute cannot be resolved at the operating level, the subject of disagreement will be recorded in writing by each Party and presented to the other party for consideration. If resolution to the dispute is not reached within thirty (30) days, the authorized representatives of each Party will forward the written record of the dispute to the respective executive head for consideration and settlement.

Article 6

- (1) Nothing in or relating to the present Memorandum may be understood as constituting or implying, a waiver from the privileges and immunities enjoyed by the UNECE under the terms of the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.
- (2) This Memorandum does not create any resource or administrative liability for either Party.

Signed in Geneva and Lisbon, in two copies, each copy in the English language.

For the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	For the Portuguese Ministry for Environment of the Portuguese Republic
Christian Friis Bach Executive Secretary	Carlos Martins Secretary of State for Environment

Date:

Date:

Annex 1

Authorized representatives

UNECE

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