

**ACTION PLAN
ON THE PROGRAMME FOR COOPERATION
IN THE SECTORS OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCES
BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
FOR THE YEARS 2010-2012**

During the Italian-Egyptian meeting held in Rome on 19-20 October 2010, with the purpose of giving the appropriate relevance to bilateral relations, and taking into consideration their privileged nature,

upholding the spirit of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of health and medical specialty sciences signed in Cairo on 26 September 2004, based on principles of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit, and taking into account the provisions of articles 5 and 7 of the aforesaid Memorandum,

taking into account the multilateral initiatives in the field of health under the Union for the Mediterranean (EUROMED in the health sector) that have started after the Ministerial Conference held in Cairo on 16-17 November 2008,

taking into account the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic on Cooperation in Health, especially in the field of strengthening Thalassemia and other blood diseases, signed in Rome on 19 May 2010,

aware that health represents a universal and inalienable human right, the pursuit of which can foster relationships of peace, stability and human development,

the Minister of Health of the Italian Republic and the Minister of Health of the Arab Republic of Egypt, (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties")

ADOPT THE FOLLOWING ACTION PLAN:

1. The Parties will encourage cooperation by exchanging information, documents, experts, and specialists, as well as by supporting direct contacts between institutions and organizations of each Country. They will promote joint participation in international conferences and meetings in the fields of mutual interest.

2. The Parties will develop the collaboration in the priority areas specified below:

- a. Cancer, in particular the application of clinical technologies, diagnostics and treatment, prevention and screening, and cancer registries;
- b. Organ transplantation, especially liver and kidney;
- c. Infectious diseases, in particular hepatitis and other viral infections, epidemiology and epidemiologic surveillance;
- d. Haematology, especially thalassemia, stem cell transplantation and blood bank;

- e. Cardiology and cardiovascular surgery;
- f. Food induced diseases and Celiac disease;
- g. Health Management.

3. The mention of the areas specified above is only indicative, and does not preclude cooperation in other fields mutually agreed upon.

4. Taking into account the experience gained so far the Parties will identify specific "focal points" for each area mentioned in the previous paragraph as referents who will be responsible for activity implementation and for sending periodic information to the respective Ministries, on the ongoing projects, on possible critical aspects, and on suggestions to overcome them.

5. The Parties, together with the focal points mentioned in the preceding paragraph, will prepare and approve programmes for periodic visits of specialists from each Country in their health and scientific institutes.


6. The Parties will define a programme for the exchange of information and experiences in the areas mentioned above, which also include the participation of the regional and local levels.

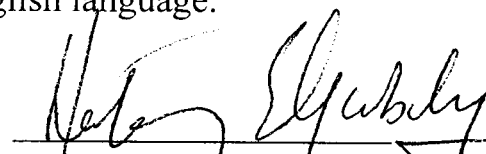
7. The Parties agree that all projects approved in the frame of the Action Plan will be implemented within the limits of available funding in the respective budgets. The Parties will also endeavour to obtain funding from International Bodies, including the European Commission, to develop common projects such as twinning and technical assistance projects, and to strengthen joint health initiatives in the Euro-Mediterranean area through the Euromed programme.

8. Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding in the field of health and medical specialty sciences, and in particular article 7, a meeting of the Monitoring and Coordination Joint Commission will take place in the coming months in order to define the operative programmes in the fields mentioned in this Action Plan. The activities will be reviewed periodically and at least once a year.

9. This Action plan is a framework document and may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties, in written form.

Signed in Rome, on 19th October 2010, in the English language.


The Minister of Health
of the Italian Republic


The Minister of Health
of the Arab Republic of Egypt