

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH
BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH
OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
AND THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH
OF THE STATE OF QATAR**

The Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Public Health of the State of Qatar,
hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

guided by the willingness to strengthen even further their friendly relations in the field of Health,

have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

This Memorandum of Understanding outlines the interest of the Parties to cooperate in all important health matters.

The specific areas of cooperation will be determined taking into account the interests of the Parties, in accordance with the principles of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

Wherever possible, the Parties will coordinate their actions or promote joint activities within international health agencies including the World Health Organization (WHO).

Article 2

The Parties will cooperate in the following areas:

1. Exchange of information on the healthcare services, biomedical research, pharmaceutical products as well as on new technologies and medical equipment.
2. Promotion of direct contacts between the relevant institutions and organizations of their Countries.
3. Exchange of medical literature on health care as well as any audio-visual material in the field of health.
4. Integration of basic information systems for health and epidemiology, including telecommunications and statistical methods for data interoperability.
5. Exchange of expertise in the assessment of quality standards for healthcare.
6. Exchange of expertise in health related legislation and healthcare financing.
7. Exchange of scientists, experts and other healthcare professionals, facilitating internships and advanced courses for Qatari nationals.

8. Specialization of health professionals through training and attendance at medical schools.
9. Any other form of cooperation in the field of health decided by the Parties.

Article 3

The Parties will exchange visits between researchers and health specialists at all levels in order to strengthen cooperation and contacts between their respective Countries.

The relevant clinical activity will be carried out in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the practice of medical professions and non-medical health professions in the host country.

Article 4

The Parties will favor the exchange of expertise and cooperation projects related to the development of hospitals and health centers and the contracting opportunities with companies working in this area, including medical facilities and equipment, according to their respective rules and regulations.

Article 5

The activities foreseen under this Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented by the Parties according to their ordinary budget availability without any additional cost for the State budgets of the Italian Republic and the State of Qatar.

Each Party will cover all the expenses related to its representatives' visits to the other Country.

Article 6

The Parties will set up a Joint Steering Committee aiming at identifying priorities in the cooperation framework, and drafting action plans. This Committee will meet when necessary, as decided by the Parties, alternately in Italy and in Qatar.

Article 7

This Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented in accordance with the Italian and Qatari legislations, as well as applicable international law and, as for the Italian Party, the obligations arising from Italy's membership of the European Union.

The Parties will cooperate in accordance with the principles of equality, mutual benefit, results sharing and protection of intellectual property right.

Article 8

Any difference in the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum, will be settled amicably by direct consultations and negotiations between the Parties.

Article 9

The Parties may amend this Memorandum of Understanding in writing by mutual consent. The amendments will take effect in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 10.

Article 10

This Memorandum takes effect at the date of the receipt of the written notification by which the Qatari Party informs the Italian Party of the completion of the internal procedures required for its implementation.

It will remain valid for a period of five (5) years and will be automatically extended for additional periods of five (5) years, unless terminated by either Party giving the other Party a written notice, at least six (6) months in advance, of its intention to terminate it.

Done in Rome, on 20/11/2018 in two originals in the Italian, Arabic and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence, the English text will prevail.

**For the Ministry of Health of the
Italian Republic**

*The Undersecretary of State
Armando Bartolazzi*

**For the Ministry of Public Health of
the State of Qatar**

*The Minister
Hanan Mohammed Al Kawari*