

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
AND
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCES

The Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Bahrain (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties")

Desirous to enhance mutual collaboration in the fields of health and medical sciences

Fully aware that this collaboration will contribute to improve the health status of the citizens of their respective Countries

Have reached the following understanding:

ARTICLE 1

The Parties, within the limits of their respective competencies, will promote collaboration in the fields of health and medical sciences on a basis of equality and reciprocity and according to the mutual benefits that may arise.

The specific sectors of collaboration, jointly established, concern the following areas:

- basic medical training;
- maternal and child health protection, including reproductive health;
- cooperation in fighting chronic diseases in the framework of “*The United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016 – 2025*” and of “*Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020*”;
- prevention, diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases, with particular reference to cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, cancer, diabetes;
- cooperation in the field of hematology with particular reference to bone marrow transplants.

ARTICLE 2

The Parties will cooperate in the fields of health and medical sciences by means of:

- exchange of information;
- exchange of delegations and health personnel;

- participation of specialists in conferences and scientific meetings to be organized by each of the Parties;
- promotion of contacts among hospitals, institutes of specialist medicine and medical research institutions, and organisms working in the Italian and Bahreini health sectors;
- other ways of cooperation jointly decided upon.

ARTICLE 3

The Parties will establish a Joint Working Committee in order to determine and evaluate the cooperation activities jointly decided upon. The Committee will meet, unless otherwise decided upon by the Parties, not more than once a year, alternatively in the respective Countries.

ARTICLE 4

The activities as provided for by this Memorandum will be carried out by the Parties according to their financial availability without any additional cost for the ordinary State budgets of the Italian Republic and the Kingdom of Bahrain. Each Party will cover the expenses for travels and stay as for their respective competence.

ARTICLE 5

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

The eventual health activities related to the projects jointly decided upon will be done in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the practice of medicine and non-medical health professions in the host Country.

This Memorandum does not create any legal rights or obligations of any kind on the Parties.

ARTICLE 6

This Memorandum may be amended in writing by mutual consent of the Parties. Such amendments will take effect on the date jointly decided upon by the Parties.

ARTICLE 7

Any dispute regarding the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum will be settled amicably through direct consultations and negotiations between the Parties.

ARTICLE 8

This Memorandum takes effect on the date of signature and will remain valid for a period of five (5) years and will be automatically renewed for periods of equal duration, unless one of the Parties notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate it at least six (6) months in advance. The termination of this Memorandum will not affect the ongoing projects.

Signed in Rome, on 4th February 2020, in two originals in Italian, Arabic and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the text in English will prevail.

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

**For the Ministry of Health
of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

Luigi Di Maio

Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa
