ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, ETHICAL CLAUSES, CONTRACT GENERAL PRINCIPLES

This Annex harmonizes the latest edition of the "*Rules and Procedures for service, supply and works contracts financed from the general budget of the European Commission in the context of cooperation with third countries*" with the fundamental principles of Italian law on procurement and development aid.

1. CONTRACTOR ELIGIBILITY

1.1 THE RULE ON OBJECTIVITY AND IMPARTIALITY

To avoid any conflict of interest, any natural or legal person, including entities within the same legal group, members of consortia, temporary associations, and sub-contractors, involved in the preparation of the Project shall be excluded from participating in tenders or from submitting offers aimed at the implementation of the Project.

1.2 THE RULE ON ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, PROFESSIONAL, AND TECHNICAL CAPACITY

The candidates/bidders must prove that their economic, financial, professional and technical capacity is suitable for the implementation of the contract. Unless otherwise established in the Agreement, the candidates/bidders must prove:

1.2.1 *Economic and financial standing*: the total turnover of the candidates/bidders in the last three years in the same field of the bid must be at least equivalent to the maximum budget of the contract; enterprises that have been established for less than three years may prove their economic and financial standing with any document which the contracting authority may deem appropriate.

1.2.2 *Professional and technical capacity*: candidates/bidders shall provide a full record of the activities performed during the last three years; enterprises that have been established for less than three years may prove their professional and technical capacity with any document which the contracting authority may deem appropriate.

1.2.3 Italian enterprises shall qualify for works contracts pursuant to decree of the President of the Republic n. 34/2000 (and further modifications/amendments thereof). Non-Italian enterprises shall qualify according to their respective national law.

1.3 GROUND FOR EXCLUSION FOR PARTICIPATION IN CONTRACTS

Natural or legal persons are not entitled to participate in competitive tendering or be awarded contracts if:

1.3.1 They are in the conditions as referred to in the Italian Legislative Decree 11.06.2011, n. 159 ("Antimafia). Italian tenderers/offerers must provide a self-declaration that they are not in the conditions as referred to in the Italian Legislative Decree 11.06.2011, n. 159 ("Antimafia). Non-Italian tenderers/offerers must provide an equivalent self-declaration, if issuable under their respective National law.

1.3.2 They are bankrupt, or being wound up, or are having their affairs administered by the courts, or have entered into an arrangement with creditors, or have suspended their business activities, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.

1.3.3 They are the subject of proceedings for a declaration of bankruptcy, for winding-up, for administration by the courts, for an arrangement with creditors or for any similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.

1.3.4 They or their directors or partners have been convicted of an offence concerning professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of *res judicata.*

1.3.5 They are guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify.

1.3.6 They have not fulfilled obligations related to the payment of social security contributions in accordance with the legal provisions of the country where they are established.

1.3.7 They have not fulfilled obligations related to the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country where they are established.

1.3.8 They are guilty of serious misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the MAECI-DGCS as a condition of participation in a tender procedure or contract.

1.3.9 They have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with obligations in connection with another contract with the MAECI-DGCS or another contract financed with Italian funds.

2. CONTRACT GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2.1 Contract award and execution shall assure proper quality of performance, and respect the principles of economical convenience, efficiency, timeliness, and fairness. Contract award must also abide by the principles of free competition, equal treatment, non-discrimination, transparency, proportionality, and, whenever possible, publicity.

2.2 Upon prior agreement of the parties, economical convenience may be counterbalanced by social fairness, protection of public health, conservation of environment, and promotion of sustainable development.

2.3 Award procedures shall be cancelled if there are fewer than three eligible candidates/bidders. .In presence of adequately motivated technical reasons, even less than three eligible offers may be accepted, shall the fundamental principles mentioned in the introduction be respected.

2.4 Contracts may not be modified, unless the modification is approved by the MAECI-DGCS pursuant to following clauses. Contractors are not entitled to any payment or reimbursement whatsoever for activities carried out without prior authorization. If MAECI-

DGCS or the contracting authority so requires, contractors may be forced to restore, at their own expenses, the original state before the unauthorized modification.

2.5 Bidding documents shall specify the financial resources available for the contract to be awarded.

2.6 Modifications of supply and service contracts shall be effective upon MAECI-DGCS prior authorization, which may only be granted in the following cases:
2.6.1) modifications of applicable laws and regulations;
2.6.2) unforeseen and unforeseeable circumstances, including the implementation of new materials, components or technology not existing when the award procedure was commenced, provided that the modifications ameliorate the quality of the performance, without increasing the contract total amount;
2.6.3) events related to the nature or the quality of the goods or places where the contract activities take place, which occur during the contract execution and were unforeseeable when the contract was made;
2.6.4) unless otherwise provided, the above-mentioned modifications may not increase or reduce the total contract amount beyond 20%;
2.6.5) modifications, which, in the interest of the contracting authority, increase or reduce the total contract amount, necessary to improve the quality and performance of the project are allowed up to 5%, provided that the funding is available and no substantial modification is made; the modifications shall be only due to objective reasons, unforeseeable when the contract was made;
2.6.6) contractors may not refuse the above-mentioned modifications; such modifications shall be executed at the same contractual conditions;
2.6.7) contractors shall execute any non-substantial modification that the contracting authority may see fit, provided that the nature of the activity is not fundamentally altered and no additional costs are imposed.

2.7 Modifications of works contracts shall be effective upon MAECI-DGCS prior authorization, which may only be granted in the following cases:
2.7.1) modifications of applicable laws and regulations;
2.7.2) unforeseen and unforeseeable circumstances, including the implementation of new materials, components or technology not existing when the project was made, provided that the modifications ameliorate the quality of the performance, without altering the initial project and without increasing the contract total amount;
2.7.3) events related to the specific nature of the contract activities which occur during the contract execution;
2.7.4) geological problems not predictable in the executive project;
2.7.5) errors or omissions of the project which prevent the contract implementation; in this case, the engineering consultants are responsible for the damages; the contractor may not refuse to perform such modifications if their value do not exceed 20% of the total contract amount;
2.7.6) modifications, which increase or reduce the total contract amount, necessary to improve the quality and performance of the project are allowed up to 5%, provided that the funding is available.

2.8 Contracts may not be assigned to a third party. In case of assignment, the contract shall be automatically terminated.

2.9 Subcontract is allowed up to an amount of 30% of the total contract amount. The bidding documents must specify if subcontract is allowed and the conditions thereof. Upon submitting their bids, bidders must declare which supplies/services/works they intend to subcontract. Contractors must deposit subcontracts with the contracting authority at least 20 days before commencing the execution of the subcontracts. Subcontractors must be eligible for the supplies/services/works they are assigned.

2.10 Contract prices shall be firm, fixed, and non-revisable.

2.11 Contract prices shall be denominated and paid exclusively in euros. Exchange rate risk or variations may not be subject to compensation whatsoever.

2.12 The contract shall be automatically terminated if the contractors are the subject of proceedings for a declaration of bankruptcy, for winding-up, for administration by the courts, for an arrangement with creditors or for any similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.

2.13 In case of malice or grave negligence, contractors' liability may not be limited.

2.14 Contract execution shall be governed by the law of the beneficiary state.

2.15 Disputes arising between the contractors and the contracting authority shall not be submitted to the jurisdiction of the Italian courts.

2.16 Bidding documents shall include the above-mentioned principles.

2.17 The Italian party reserves the right to apply the fundamental principles of Italian law, should any legal gap arise.

3 ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS

3.1 The costs included in the contract(s) shall be eligible if they are actual, economic, and necessary for carrying out the Project pursuant to Project document.

3.2 In any case, the following items shall not be considered eligible:

a) voluptuary or luxury goods (e.g. perfumes, cosmetics, art objects, spirits, sports goods, etc.);

b) goods, services and civil works directly or indirectly connected to police or military activities;

c) non-income / non-profit taxes (including VAT) and import duties;

d) provisions for outstanding debts and future losses of the beneficiary or the final users;

e) interests owed by the beneficiary or the final users to any third party.

4. ETHICAL CLAUSES

4.1 Any attempt by candidates or bidders to obtain confidential information, enter into unlawful agreements with competitors or influence the contracting authority during the process of examining, clarifying, evaluating, and comparing tenders will lead to the rejection of his candidacy or tender and may result in administrative penalties;

4.2 Without the contracting authority's prior written authorisation, contractors and their staff or any other company with which the contractor is associated or linked may not, even on an ancillary or subcontracting basis, supply other services, carry out works or supply equipment for the Project. This prohibition also applies to any other Projects that could, owing to the nature of the contract, give rise to a conflict of interest on the part of the contractors.

4.3 When putting forward their candidacy or participating in a tender, candidates or bidders must declare that they are affected by no potential conflict of interest, and that they have no particular link with other bidders or parties involved in the Project. Should such a situation arise during the performance of the contract, the contractors must immediately inform the contracting authority.

4.4 Civil servants or other officials of the public administration of the beneficiary country, regardless of their administrative situation, must not be engaged as experts by the tenderers unless the prior approval of the MAECI-DGCS has been obtained.

4.5 Contractors must at all times act impartially and as a faithful adviser in accordance with the code of conduct of their profession. They must refrain from making public statements about the Project or services without the contracting authority's prior approval. They may not commit the contracting authority in any way without its prior written consent.

4.6 For the duration of the contract, contractors and their staff must respect human rights and undertake not to offend the political, cultural and religious mores of the beneficiary state. In particular, tenderers who have been awarded contracts shall respect core labour standards as defined in the relevant International Labour Organisation conventions (such as the conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining; elimination of forced and compulsory labour; elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation; abolition of child labour).

4.7 The contractors may accept no payment connected with the contract other than that provided for therein. The contractors and their staff must not exercise any activity or receive any advantage inconsistent with their obligations to the contracting authority.

4.8 The contractor and their staff are obliged to maintain professional secrecy for the entire duration of the contract and after its completion. All reports and documents drawn up or received by the contractor are confidential.

4.9 The contract shall govern the contracting parties' use of all reports and documents drawn up, received or presented by them during the execution of the contract.

4.10 The contractors shall refrain from any relationship likely to compromise their independence or that of their staff. If contractors cease to be independent, the contracting authority may, regardless of injury, terminate the contract without further notice and without the supplier having any claim to compensation.

4.11 The MAECI-DGCS reserves the right to suspend or cancel Project financing if corrupt practices of any kind are discovered at any stage of the award process and if the contracting authority fails to take all appropriate measures to remedy the situation. For the purposes of this provision, "corrupt practices" are the offer of a bribe, gift, gratuity or commission to any person as an inducement or reward for performing or refraining from any act relating to the award of a contract or implementation of a contract already concluded with the contracting authority.

4.12 More specifically, all tender dossiers and contracts for works, supplies and services must include a clause stipulating that tenders will be rejected or contracts terminated if it emerges that the award or execution of a contract has given rise to unusual commercial expenses. Such unusual commercial expenses are commissions not mentioned in the main contract or not stemming from a properly concluded contract referring to the main contract, commissions not paid in return for any actual and legitimate service, commissions remitted to a tax haven, commissions paid to a recipient who is not clearly identified or commissions paid to a company which has every appearance of being a front company.

4.13 Contractors undertakes to supply the MAECI-DGCS on request with supporting evidence regarding the conditions in which the contract is being executed. The MAECI-DGCS may carry out whatever documentary or on-the-spot checks it deems necessary to find evidence in cases of suspected unusual commercial expenses.

4.14 Contractors found to have paid unusual commercial expenses on Projects funded by the MAECI-DGCS are liable, depending on the seriousness of the facts observed, to have their contracts terminated or to be permanently excluded from receiving MAECI-DGCS funds.

4.15 Failure to comply with one or more of the ethics clauses may result in the exclusion of the candidate, bidder or contractor from other MAECI-DGCS contracts and in penalties. The individual or company in question must be informed of the fact in writing.

4.16 It is the obligation of the contracting authority to ensure that the procurement procedure is concluded in a transparent manner, based on objective criteria and disregarding any possible external influences.