

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS

And



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

On

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF GREEN HYDROGEN

INTRODUCTION

The Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Netherlands (hereinafter jointly referred to as "Participants" and separately as "Participant");

AFFIRMING the strong political, geographical and economic ties between South Africa and the Netherlands;

RECOGNISING that the Participants have a common interest in the energy sector, specifically in green hydrogen, sourced from renewable energies, as an energy carrier to decarbonise the economy, meet each country's emission reduction policy goals and commitments adopted under the Paris Agreement as well as to ensure stable green energy supply; and the benefits of working together in supporting the creation of an international market, the development and demonstration of technologies, the deployment of infrastructure and the setting up of trade corridors for green hydrogen between the two countries;

MINDFUL of the valuable cooperation in research over many years, as well as the significant potential of both countries in the production, storage, transport and use of green hydrogen;

WISHING to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of energy resources on the basis of mutual social, economic and environmental benefit to the Participants in order to promote sustainable development including decarbonisation of their economies;

RECOGNISING the importance of developing international hydrogen supply chains that align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and that contribute to sustainable local development in both import- and exporting countries.

NOW THEREFORE the Participants have reached the following understanding:

**PARAGRAPH 1
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as this "MoU") is to provide a framework for the Participants to promote and enhance cooperation in the field of renewable energy resources, based on the principles of equality and mutual respect of the Participants' sovereignty and policies.

**PARAGRAPH 2
SCOPE AND FORM OF COOPERATION**

1. Subject to the domestic law of the respective countries, the Participants will enhance bilateral cooperation and knowledge sharing in fields such as standards, trade rules, policies, technologies, certification and investments to support the development of green hydrogen value chains.
2. Participants will jointly promote public and private investment in green hydrogen projects, thereby creating new opportunities for companies and industry and supporting private-sector networks in accelerating the implementation of both countries' green hydrogen strategies.
3. Possible forms of cooperation include—
 - 3.1 the promotion of research, education, innovation and academic exchange and ways to train professionals in the academic and non-academic sectors;
 - 3.2 demonstration of technologies, transfer thereof and training;
 - 3.3 stimulation of the development of the full hydrogen chain, including renewable energy, water management, application of hydrogen and its derivatives and port development;
 - 3.4 assistance for the development of related policies;
 - 3.5 coordination of positions and exploring joint approaches in international fora e.g. in the Conference of the Parties (COP)meetings;
 - 3.6 contributing to the objectives of the Just Energy Transition Partnership taking into account that South Africa and the Netherlands are both involved in the energy transition;
 - 3.7 exploration of international development funding including project preparation funding for green hydrogen projects; and

- 3.8 the creation of linkages between green hydrogen product off-takers and developers.

PARAGRAPH 3 GOVERNANCE

1. The Participants will define jointly and decide together on the governance structure to implement this MoU.
2. Implementation will take place in consultation and cooperation with other relevant institutions of South Africa and the Netherlands, as identified by the Participants.
3. A Strategic Working Group will be established to define the governance structure.
4. The composition and the agenda, time and place of the meetings of the Strategic Working Group will be decided upon by the Participants.
5. A first meeting of the Strategic Working Group is foreseen in the second half of 2023.

PARAGRAPH 4 FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. The implementation of this MoU will be subject to the availability of resources of the Participants.
2. In connection with this MoU, each Participant will cover the costs of its own participants in the programmes and projects of cooperation, the meetings of implementing agencies, as well as the Working Groups.
3. The Participants will explore ways to fund the activities under this MoU through national and international funding schemes.

PARAGRAPH 5 COMMUNICATION

1. Unless decided otherwise, the Participants will maintain confidentiality regarding any information shared or exchanged, as well as outputs or results regarding this MoU.
2. All communication related to this MoU will be delivered through the diplomatic channel.

PARAGRAPH 6
MoU NOT LEGALLY BINDING

This MoU does not create any legally binding obligations or confer any rights on the Participants under international law.

PARAGRAPH 7
RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

Any disputes regarding the interpretation, application and implementation of this MoU, will be resolved amicably through consultation or negotiations between the Participants through the diplomatic channel.

PARAGRAPH 8
COMING INTO EFFECT, DURATION AND TERMINATION

1. This MoU will come into effect on the date of signature thereof by the Participants.
2. This MoU will remain in effect for a period of five years, whereafter it will be automatically renewed for a further period of five years.
3. This MoU may be terminated by either Participant at any time by giving three months' prior written notice of its intention to terminate this MoU through the diplomatic channel.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this MoU.

Signed in duplicate in the English language inon this day of 2023.

**For the Government of the
Netherlands**

**H.E. Mark Rutte on behalf of H.E.
Rob Jetten, Minister for Climate
and Energy Policy, for the Ministry
of Economic Affairs and Climate
Policy of the Netherlands**

**For the Government of South
Africa**

**H.E. Mondli Gungubele, Acting
Minister in The Presidency responsible
for Electricity**