

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**AMONG**  
**THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**AND**  
**THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY TRANSITION AND SUSTAINABLE**  
**DEVELOPMENT OF MOROCCO**  
**AND**  
**THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN SOLAR ENERGY & NEW ENERGIES (IRESEN)**  
**OF MOROCCO**  
**ON**  
**COLLABORATION IN ORGANIZING A SOLAR DECATHLON DESIGN**  
**CHALLENGE IN MOROCCO**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a non-binding expression of intent among the Department of Energy of the United States of America (DOE), the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development (METSD) of Morocco, and the Research Institute in Solar Energy & New Energies (IRESEN) of Morocco to collaborate in the achievement of successful Solar Decathlon Africa events in Morocco to be held in 2023 and/or 2024. DOE, METSD, and IRESEN may each be referred to individually as a “Participant” and collectively as the “Participants.”

WHEREAS, the Participants have common goals in fostering sustainable economic development while encouraging the use of renewable energy sources;

WHEREAS, DOE’s Solar Decathlon and the Solar Decathlon Africa are international competitions designed to promote the design of houses that are energy efficient and self-reliant in energy usage;

WHEREAS, the METSD and IRESEN have embarked on ambitious challenges in the National Energy Strategy set up by the Kingdom of Morocco in 2009;

WHEREAS, the Participants successfully collaborated under the Memorandum of Understanding among the Department of Energy of the United States of America, the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water & Environment of Morocco, and the Research Institute in Solar Energy & New Energies (IRESEN) of Morocco on Collaboration in Organizing a Solar Decathlon in Morocco, signed on November 15, 2016, to organize the Solar Decathlon Africa Build Competition in 2019 which integrated unique local and regional characteristics while using the same philosophy, principles, and model now in place in the United States;

WHEREAS, following the Moroccan decree N° 2-20-413 relating to prerogatives of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Environnement, the name of the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water & Environnement of Morocco was changed to the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco; and

WHEREAS, DOE as the creator of the Solar Decathlon series, wishes to see a Solar Decathlon Design Challenge in Africa, and IRESEN and METSD have indicated they have the interest, capacity, and resources to organize and host a “Solar Decathlon Africa Design Challenge;”

NOW, THEREFORE, the Participants have reached the following understanding:

## **SECTION 1**

### **Objective**

The objective of this MOU is to establish a framework for collaboration among the Participants regarding the organization of Solar Decathlon Africa Design Challenge events to take place in Morocco in 2023 and/or 2024. The Participants intend to collaborate on the basis of mutual benefit and an open and reciprocal exchange of information on all aspects necessary to ensure a successful Solar Decathlon Africa Design Challenge.

## **SECTION 2**

### **Collaborative Activities**

1. DOE intends to give its permission to METSD and IRESEN, from the effective date of this MOU until 31 December 2024, to use the term “SOLAR DECATHLON” for Solar Decathlon Africa Design Challenge events in Morocco in 2023 and/or 2024.
2. The first edition of the Solar Decathlon Africa Build Competition took place in 2019, with a call for applicants in 2017. The second edition event, the Solar Decathlon Africa Design Challenge, is expected to take place in 2023 and/or 2024. The timeframe may be extended or reduced by written mutual determination of the Participants. Although preference may be given for regional participation, universities from all countries should be eligible to submit proposals to participate in Solar Decathlon Africa Design Challenge events, and have their proposals evaluated based on fair and transparent criteria.
3. The Solar Decathlon Africa Design Challenge should not take place within one week of another U.S. Solar Decathlon event.
4. DOE intends to cooperate with METSD and IRESEN to organize the Solar Decathlon Africa Design Challenge, but DOE is not serving as a co-host or sponsor of the Solar Decathlon Africa Design Challenge. The Participants should not list DOE as a co-host or sponsor. DOE intends to coordinate with METSD and IRESEN for the use of the DOE logo and seal, which may be used in association with the Solar Decathlon Africa Design Challenge only with prior written approval from DOE.

## **SECTION 3**

### **Management and Funding**

1. To ensure effective implementation and oversight of this MOU, the Participants intend to establish an Oversight Committee consisting of a minimum of five members, two from DOE, and three combined from METSD and IRESEN.

2. METSD and IRESEN should provide periodic reports to the Oversight Committee on progress and plans, including a final report summarizing the success of the Moroccan edition of the Solar Decathlon Africa Design Challenge event. Final approval of plans and activities, and any future plans for subsequent competitions developed by the Oversight Committee, are intended to be the responsibility of the Participants.
3. METSD and IRESEN intend to arrange for funding necessary to organize and conduct the Solar Decathlon Africa Design Challenge for the duration of this MOU. DOE does not intend to provide funding or support, other than activities described in Section 2 of this MOU, for the Solar Decathlon Africa Design Challenge for the duration of this MOU. Participation in the activities contemplated by this MOU is subject to the availability of funding, personnel, and other resources.
4. Except as may otherwise be decided in writing, each Participant is expected to be responsible for any costs it incurs in the course of cooperation under this MOU.
5. Nothing in this MOU should be construed as giving rise to a joint venture, agency, partnership, consortium or any other formal business organization.
6. Nothing in this MOU is intended to give rise to legally binding rights or obligations between or among the Participants under international law.

#### **SECTION 4**

##### **Commencement, Modification, and Discontinuation**

Cooperation under this MOU may commence upon signature and continue until 31 December 2024. This MOU may be modified at any time by mutual determination of the Participants in writing. If any Participant desires to discontinue its cooperation under this MOU, it should endeavor to provide 120 days advance written notice to the other Participants. The discontinuation of cooperation by either DOE or both METSD and IRESEN constitutes discontinuation of this MOU.

Signed in triplicate.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:



Date: December 15, 2022

Place: Washington, DC

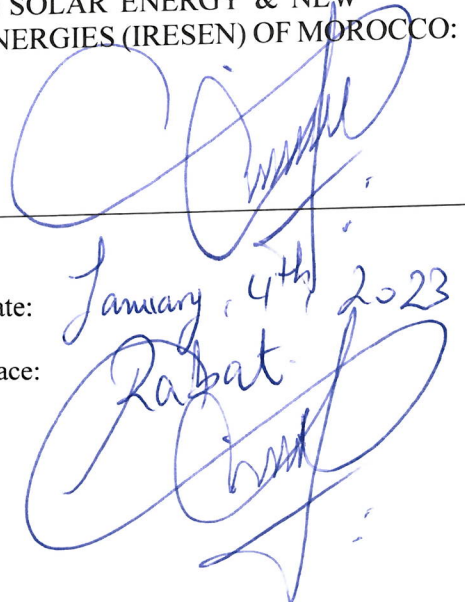
FOR THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
TRANSITION AND SUSTAINABLE  
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Date:

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