

OFFICIAL STATEMENT ITALY

KAINAKI II TO COP26 –PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE ON URGENT CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

Dear Ministers and Excellencies,

Italy, which is an active Dialogue Partner of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) since 2007, fully agrees with the Pacific Small Islands Developing States view that climate change is the single greatest threat of our time and that we need a more ambitious climate change action.

Five years have passed since the Paris Agreement has been adopted and it is urgent that all Countries should strengthen their climate action, including submitting revised and more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions in order to limit global warming to below 1,5 degrees.

Moreover, the COVID pandemic has further exacerbated the vulnerability of the Pacific region and the International Community therefore the moral duty to support the SIDS which are the most affected by the climate change related disasters.

Italy, as Partner of the United Kingdom in the organization of the forthcoming COP 26, will host in Milan the Pre-Cop in Milan at ministerial level and also a Youth4 Climate event. We deem it crucial to promote and mobilize the engagement of the young generations recognizing them as key players in climate action.

We are currently cooperating with our British Partners and with the EU to reach out to all Countries, especially big emitters, to underline the urgency of more ambitious measures. We expect all Countries to make every effort to curb emissions by announcing revised and more ambitious NDCs and confirm their commitments to reach net zero emissions as soon as possible.

Furthermore, in 2021 Italy will chair the G20 and we chose to focus on the enhancement of those public goods- people, planet, prosperity- , which are also a condition for preventing and addressing shocks like the ones we are experiencing. We will therefore emphasize the importance to imagine a new sustainable development model and tackling climate change will be of course at the heart of the efforts needed to build a better world. In this context during the Italian G20 Presidency we are planning to organize a climate ministerial meeting and an energy ministerial meeting.

We are confident that having during the same year the G20 Presidency and the Partnership with United Kingdom for the COP 26 will offer a unique opportunity to create fruitful synergies between these different multilateral fora.

Italy, being the 3rd largest country and contributor within the European Union, is playing an active role to promote the adoption of a more ambitious EU NDC to be announced at the next European Council in December. We hope that the EU, in order to achieve the longterm commitment of a

complete decarbonization of its economy by 2050, will be able to announce the objective to pursue the 55 percent reduction of its emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 as a necessary first step.

Italy also supports the EU role as a main donor in the Pacific region and encourages a further strengthening of the EU-Pacific cooperation in the framework of the new post-Cotonou Agreement. Besides, in Italy's view the international community should continue its efforts towards meeting their global climate finance commitments including the replenishment of the Green Climate Fund. The Italian Government is firmly committed to continue its support to the PSIDS in the forthcoming years by providing adequate development aid programs, especially in the field of environment, renewables and emergency aid in response to climate change caused disasters.

Italy strongly believes that the most powerful tool for achieving success in international cooperation is the Partnership. For this reason, Italy established the Partnership with the PSIDS now widely recognized as a best practice for development cooperation which is based on the principles of national ownership and equality. All decisions are made by consensus since the projects are approved by a Joint Committee which meets annually in New York with the participation of all Parties. The Program, worth over 20 million US dollars became a model of cooperation with the approval of over 40 bilateral projects mainly related to the promotion of renewables and countering of climate change, but also to food and water security, climate risk reduction, sustainable fisheries, tourism and agriculture, protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, capacity and institution building. Besides Italy has announced a new contribution to IUCN for the promotion of renewable energies in the Pacific region.

Italy, being fully aware that SIDS have been strongly affected by the consequences of the COVID pandemic, has supported the approval of specific European programs in the Small Islands to help them to strengthen their health systems and deal with the negative economic and social impacts. Italy has also supported the access of the SIDS in the international mechanism for the universal, equitable distribution of the vaccines, allowing most SIDS to be among the beneficiaries of the GAVI AMC/ Covax facility. We also favored the participation of the SIDS in the Facilitation Council of the ACT Accelerator.

To confirm our increasing interest to the Pacific Region the Italian Government has appointed in 2018 a Special Envoy for the Pacific Region with the task to further develop the already excellent bilateral cooperation with the PSIDS in all sectors

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