

**MR. GIUSEPPE CONTE STATEMENT
HIGH LEVEL EVENT
"FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE ERA OF
COVID -19 AND BEYOND"**

(September 29, 2020)

Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
dear Friends,

Over the last months, we have undertaken unprecedented political and financial actions to address immediate, short, medium and long-term challenges posed by the pandemic.

However, we are conscious that there is still a vast amount of efforts to scale up.

We need to look beyond the immediate emergency and focus our global action on fostering an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery.

The pandemic should not induce us to downgrade our ambitions and targets for sustainable development: on the contrary, it must push us to double our efforts to design a more sustainable world.

To this end, we should exploit the concrete policy-options outlined in the context of the initiative we promote today, such as identifying effective solutions tailored to country's needs and combine actions for debt reduction and sustainable development in low-income countries.

Since the outset, Italy has called and acted for a global, coordinated, multi-dimensional response to the pandemic. Together with the European Union, we have contributed to mobilize more than 40 billion euro in aid and support for the most vulnerable countries.

Italy, as next G20 Presidency and partner of the United Kingdom for COP-26 is fully committed to build, facilitate and promote multilateral efforts towards a greener, more equitable, and healthier world. In this spirit, we will focus on three key dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement: People, Planet and Prosperity.

Inclusive and people-centered policies, the protection of the environment and the leveraging of digital revolution will be among the highlights of our agenda.

Global health will be also at the center of a Global Summit that Italy will host during our G20 Presidency in 2021, together with the European Commission.

We will not be able to defeat this pandemic until vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics will be global public goods and accessible to all. In this perspective, we must continue supporting key mechanism such as the ACT – Accelerator.

This is the moment to lead the way from fragility towards a new beginning.

It is now time to act together and “build back better”.

Italy stands ready to take up this challenge.

Thank you.