



*Ufficio del Consigliere Diplomatico  
del Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri*

**Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond**  
Meeting of Heads of State and Government on the International Debt  
Architecture and Liquidity

(29 marzo 2021)

Il Segretario Generale delle Nazioni Unite e i Primi Ministri di Canada e Giamaica hanno organizzato questo evento con l'obiettivo di ribadire, ad un anno dall'inizio della pandemia, la rilevanza del tema del **finanziamento dello sviluppo sostenibile**. Si tratta di un tema che il PM canadese ha richiamato in occasione del vostro colloquio del 17 marzo scorso.

Ciò anche in vista degli *"Spring Meetings"* (5-11 aprile) e del prosieguo delle discussioni in seno ai principali fora internazionali, in particolare G7 e G20, sui temi collegati alla finanza internazionale e alla ripresa post-pandemica.

Interverranno in apertura il Segretario Generale António Guterres ed i Primi Ministri di Canada (Justin Trudeau) e Giamaica (Andrew Holness), cui seguiranno gli interventi dei Capi di Stato o di Governo di un selezionato numero di Paesi ed i vertici dei principali organismi internazionali.

Il video messaggio dell'E.V. sarà trasmesso tra i primi, nella sessione plenaria, in considerazione del nostro ruolo di Presidenza del G20.

Dear Secretary-General Guterres,  
Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,  
Dear Prime Minister Holness,  
Excellencies,  
Dear friends and colleagues.

The COVID-19 pandemic has claimed more than 2.7 million of lives and strained healthcare systems around the world.

It has also taken a severe hit on the global economy, especially on developing and low-income countries.

The World Bank has estimated that the pandemic has pushed 120 million into extreme poverty in 2020.

For the first time in two decades, poverty is set to rise significantly and there is no sign this increase will be reversed this year.

Last April, the G20 has shown unity and leadership and approved an Action Plan, that included a Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI).

As a result, 73 countries became eligible to suspend temporarily their payments to official debtors and concentrate their resources on fighting the pandemic.

This measure has been extended until June, and I am confident there will be a further extension until the end of 2021.

However, these initiatives are by their very nature temporary. They must be part of a broader package to support low-income countries on a longer-term basis.

Italy intends to use its Presidency of the G20 to build consensus on a new general allocation of Special Drawing Rights, which appears to be within reach.

This would help to boost global reserves and support countries experiencing foreign exchange troubles.

Italy is also working on creating options for those IMF members who do not presently need their SDRs to mobilize them in support of those who do.

Multilateral Development Banks can also play an important role.

During our Presidency of the G20, we will continue to hold them to their commitment to ensure net positive financing flows towards low-income countries.

For those countries facing problems of long-term debt sustainability, the Common Framework for Debt Treatment offers an efficient way to intervene timely and orderly.

For the first time, all G20 and Paris Club creditors will sit around the same table to negotiate debt treatments and will ask creditors from the private sector to work towards the same goal.

Finally, we must promote greater transparency in debt data, in both creditor and debtor countries.

At a time of unprecedented crisis, all countries must work to help those in greatest need.

I am sure that this high-level meeting will provide effective and ambitious proposals to provide liquidity, address debt-sustainability and ensure a robust recovery for all.

Thank you.