

Committed to a cleaner planet

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Having just attended the Rio+20 summit, Italy's representative reaffirms in both spirit and actions its longstanding commitment to sustainable development.

At the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, hosted by Brazil, Italy welcomed the conference outcome document agreed *ad referendum*. Like any other compromise solution, each country or group of countries may judge it a partial success or a partial failure.

Italy prefers to see it as a new chapter of a renewed common endeavor, which has to continue and further develop over the next years.

Italy is convinced that the green economy is a fundamental tool to achieve sustainable development. We would have liked this concept to be embraced with greater and wider support. We are keen, nevertheless, to continue working together to develop inclusive green economy policies as a common undertaking.

Moreover, given the magnitude and the characteristics of this challenge, we strongly believe that the role of the private sector will be of crucial importance.

Italy very much welcomes the envisaged adoption of the ten-year framework for action on sustainable consumption and production, as well as the range of engagements and commitments in very important areas, such as water and sanitation, energy, oceans and seas, land and ecosystems, sustainable cities, mountains, food security and nutrition.

Let me recall that food security and nutrition are global issues to which Italy devotes special attention. This is why it decided to dedicate the 2015 World Expo in Milan to the theme "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life" with the aim of providing a platform for innovation and technology-sharing in the field of sustainable, healthy and secure nutrition.

Energy sustainability is another priority fully shared by Italy. While working to achieve a cleaner national energy mix, we are also committed to international cooperation and expertise-sharing and strong supporters of more recent endeavors, such as the "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative, launched by the Secretary General.

Tackling climate change through coordinated emission-reduction policies is a pre-condition to substantially reducing – and possibly stopping – the serious degeneration of planet Earth's fragile ecosystems, on which our own lives depend. With that in mind, let me reiterate Italy's particularly strong concern for the future of the Small Island States – which are minor global pollutants and remain major vulnerable targets of global warming effects. In this regard Italy confirms its continuous commitment in support of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States and would like to announce that it plans to provide an additional contribution of \$6 million for projects and activities implementing sustainable development and particularly addressing climate change.

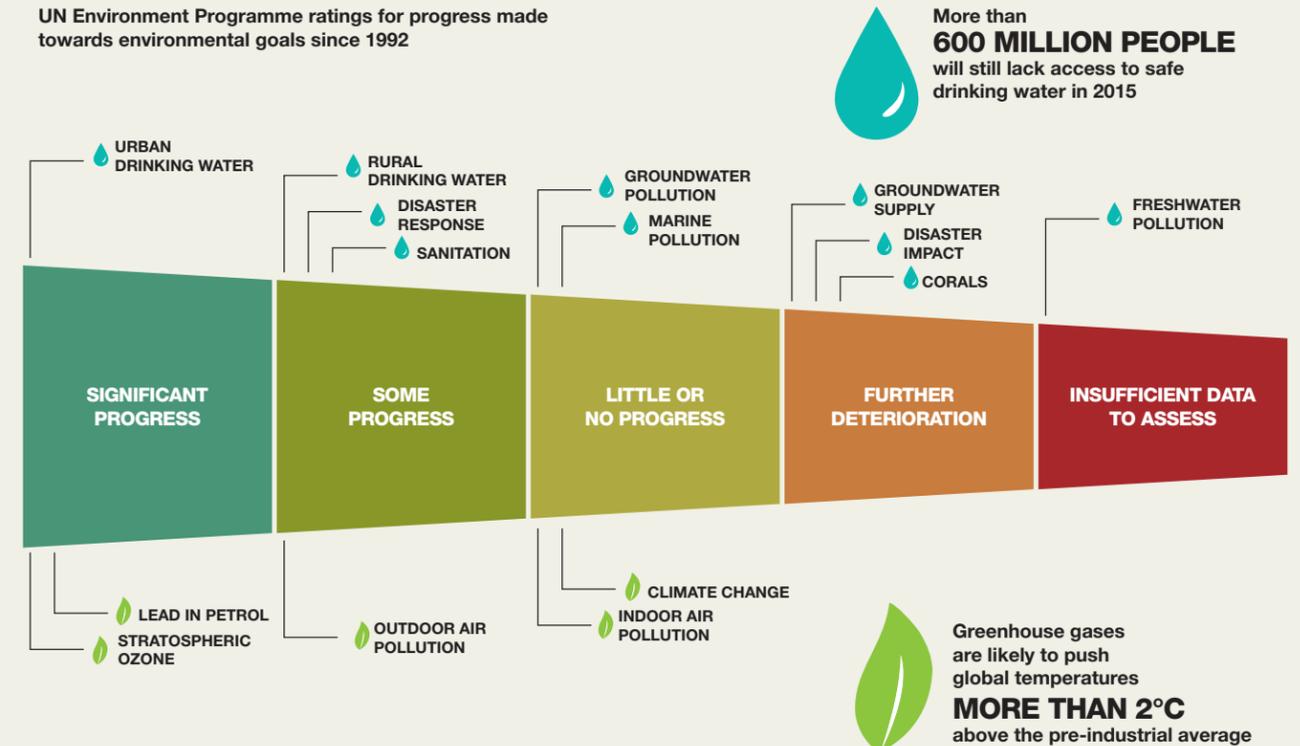
Advancement towards all the above-mentioned goals requires an coherent overall framework. This is why we support the agreement to launch an inclusive process on Sustainable Development Goals, to be coordinated and coherent with the post-2015 development agenda.

An effective approach to sustainable development also requires adequate governance tools. Like the other EU countries, Italy would have preferred a bolder initiative on environmental governance. However, we value the agreement on the strengthening and functional upgrade of UNEP. We also look forward to the High-Level Political Forum providing the degree of leadership and the level of functions that are needed to ensure the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

As far as implementation tools are concerned, we believe that in these times of financial constraints the efficient use and re-orientation of existing capital – in terms of funding, institutions, human capital and knowledge – constitute the most promising short-term strategy. In the medium and long-term, more efforts can be devoted to the development of innovative finance mechanisms, facilitating the private sector ownership and contribution to public goals

RIO GOALS 20 YEARS ON

UN Environment Programme ratings for progress made towards environmental goals since 1992



Source: UNEP

and policy-implementation. Multilateral policy coordination and alignment are other key targets on which to deliver.

Finally, more policy integration is needed. We should gradually replace focused sectorial policies with integrated decision-making processes encompassing the three pillars of sustainable development. Many countries, including Italy, are already pursuing this path, identifying and testing new mechanisms of policy coordination and integration to spur decent jobs, improve livelihood and preserve natural capital.

These mechanisms now need to be guided by new indicators capable of measuring all the main aspects of societal progress. For this reason, we support the initiative to launch a program of work, within the UN, to identify broader measures of progress to complement GDP in order to better inform policy decisions.

I am afraid that we have often disappointed in the past 20 years, particularly when it comes to the expectations of the young generation. Let's not repeat the same mistake with the teenagers that we all heard

at the start of this conference.

Let's recommit strongly to meet their hopes, which are also those of all of us, and let's revive our capacity to look with faith and determination to the future we want.