

**2<sup>nd</sup> EXECUTIVE PROGRAM FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE  
ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL  
FOR THE YEARS 2026 - 2028**

Within the framework of Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Federative Republic of Brazil, signed in Rome on February 12th, 1997 and entered into force on December 15th, 1998, and of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) of the Italian Republic and the Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies (CONFAP) of the Federative Republic of Brazil on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, signed in Brasília on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission was held in Rome on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to examine the present state and further development of the scientific and technological cooperation between the two Countries, and to define the details of the second Executive Program for the years 2026-2028.

The Italian delegation is headed by H.E. Alessandro Cortese, Italian Ambassador to Brazil.

The Brazilian delegation is headed by Marcel do Nascimento Botelho, President of the Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies.

The members of the two delegations are listed in Annex I.

The institutions in charge of the coordination of the present Executive Program, hereinafter referred as to the "Parties", are:

**Italian Party:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Directorate General for Growth and Export Promotion – Office XI.

**Brazilian Party:** Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies (CONFAP).

The following agenda was adopted by the Parties:

1. Review of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the two Countries
2. Executive Program for the years 2026-2028
3. Final provisions.

*1. Review of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the two Countries*

The Parties recognized the growing importance of science and technology for the economic, social and cultural relations between the two Countries. Considering the good relationship between the two Countries, both Parties stressed the need to develop and to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology. Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the current state of the bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the field of science, technology and innovation, which led to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) and the Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies (CONFAP), which was signed in Brasilia on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, with the aim of increasing the level of collaboration between scientists of the two Countries.

*2. Executive Program for the years 2026-2028*

In the period between September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, and October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, a call for proposals was launched in both countries to collect joint project proposals in the following priority research areas:

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1. Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence
2. Renewable Energies
3. Biodiversity and its Bioeconomic Implications
4. Infectious Diseases in the One Health Perspective
5. Sustainable Agriculture
6. Physics of Matter and Advanced Materials
7. Astronomical and Space sciences

The two Parties agreed that the joint projects selected for funding by the Joint Commission at the end of the review process, will be financed by MAECI for the Italian side, and by CONFAP, through the involved State Funding Agencies (FAPs), for the Brazilian side.

The criteria adopted in selecting the joint research projects were:

- Scientific relevance;
- Methodology and documentation;
- Qualification and expertise of the research teams;
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation;
- Involvement of early career researchers in the research teams
- Exploitation and dissemination of the results
- Budget adequacy with respect to methods and expected results

Based on the common acknowledgment of the excellence of the projects, of the research areas, both Parties have reached consensus on 10 (ten) bilateral joint research projects, which may receive financial support from both Parties. The list of the ten selected projects is given in Annex II.

Funding for the selected projects will be granted yearly on the basis of the financial resources available to both Parties.

*Midterm review of project activities.* To monitor the advancement of the proposed research and the degree of interaction between partners from the two countries, both Parties agreed that Principal Investigators of the projects selected for funding should present their results in a midterm report to be submitted within the first 6 months of the second year of project activities, and possibly participate in a midterm review meeting which may be convened by the Parties. Satisfactory evaluation of such reports by the Joint Commission is to be considered mandatory for continuation of financial support to the project.

### ***3. Final provisions***

The Parties agreed to hold the next meeting of the Joint Commission in Rome in the year 2027, including the midterm review of the joint research projects listed in the Executive Program. Further details on the Joint Commission meeting, such as date and agenda, will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

The present Executive Program will be in force between January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2028, and will remain valid until the coming into force of the next Executive Program, but no longer than one year after its expiration.

Any amendment to the text of this Executive Program has to be discussed through diplomatic channels and authorised by the competent Ministries in both Countries.

All initiatives foreseen in this Executive Program will be carried out within budget limits and according to the rules prevailing in each Country.

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Signed in Brasilia on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, in two originals written in English language, each text being equally authoritative.

For the Italian Party  
  
H.E. Alessandro Contese  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Italy to Brazil

For the Brazilian Party  
  
Marcel do Nascimento Botelho  
President of CONFAP

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Annex I

Members of the two Delegations

<b>MAECI</b>	<b>CONFAP</b>
H.E. Alessandro Cortese Ambassador of Italy to Brazil	Mr Marcel do Nascimento Botelho President, CONFAP
Fabio Naro Scientific Attaché, Embassy of Italy to Brazil	Ms Maria Zaira Turchi Director for International Cooperation, CONFAP

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Annex II

Joint research projects selected  
for funding in the years 2026-2028

PRIORITY THEME	TITLE	ITALIAN PI	ITALIAN INSTITUTION	BRAZILIAN PI	BRAZILIAN INSTITUTION
Astronomical and Space Sciences	Enhancing Kilonovae analysis through Rapid Observations and AI-Driven Simulation-Based Inference	Andrea Melandri	INAF	Clécio Bom	CBPF (FAPERJ)
Biodiversity and its bioeconomic implications	Remote sensing and innovative modelling to support biodiversity and ecosystem services quantification in urban forests in Brazil and Italy	Alessandro Mei	CNR-IIA	Veraldo Liesenberg	UDESC (FAPESC)
Infectious diseases in the One Health perspective	A step forward in the fight against bacterial resistance: combination of conventional drugs with unconventional photoactive agents for enhanced activity	Aurore Fraix	Università degli studi di Catania	Andre Luiz Tessaro	UTFPR (Fundação Araucária)
Infectious diseases in the One Health perspective	The impact of developmental viral infections on brain mechanisms underlying socio-cognitive alterations	Francesco Papaleo	IRCCS	Alexandre Henning Ulrich	USP (FAPESP)
Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence	Statistical Mechanics Out of Equilibrium	Davide Gabrielli	Università dell'Aquila	Cláudio Landim Ricardo Misturini	IMPA (FAPERJ) UFRGS (FAPERGS)

Physics of Matter and Advanced Materials	Hybrid superconductor/topological-insulator system: a promising spin-valve device (HYSPID)	Roberto Mantovan	CNR-IMM	Edson Passamani Caetano	UFES (FAPES)
Physics of Matter and Advanced Materials	PLASBIOFUEL - Plasmonic Biocatalysis for CO2 Reduction and Renewable Fuel Production	Laura Fabris	Politecnico di Torino	Márcio Vidotti Susana Ines Cordoba de Torresi	UFPR (Fundação Araucária) USP (FAPESP)
Renewable Energies	Innovative Wind Energy Systems: Modeling, Optimization and Control	Lorenzo Mario Fagiano	Politecnico di Milano	Marcelo de Lellis Costa de Oliveira	UFSC (FAPESC)
Sustainable Agriculture	Development of edible coating based on chitosan extracted from insects for shelf-life extension of Nile tilapia fillets ( <i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> )	Guiliana Parisi	Università di Firenze	Suzianny Maria Bezerra Cabral da Silva	UFRPE (FACEPE)
Sustainable Agriculture	Bridging Italy and Brazil for Circular Agri-Food Economy	Adele Finco	Università Politecnica delle Marche	Pery Francisco Assis Shikida	UNOESTE (Fundação Araucária)