

**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 Brasília 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 Cortese  
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

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



## Annex II

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

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