Your Excellencies
Mr. Nakanishi Satoshi, Parliamentary Vice-Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Japan
Mr Benigno Lopez, Minister of Finance of Republic of Paraguay

Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished delegates and dear colleagues,

It is well known that in Europe at least initially Italy has been probably the first and most hit country by Covid-19. The sudden and very violent outbreak has forced the Italian government, between the end of February and March 2020, to set out very severe measures aiming at containing the spread of the contagion and trying to assist as much as possible people affected by the disease.

Meanwhile the Italian Government has always believed that Covid-19 is a global threat that ought to be dealt with cooperation and multilateral means.

In this perspective it has proactively and consistently promoted and supported the constitution of a global, coordinated, multilateral and multi-dimensional response to the Covid-19.

I would like at this regard to draw your attention on the following issues that I hope might contribute to the debate:

3. G20 Presidency and Cooperation with the OECD Development Center.

   - Italy has been among the very first Countries to advocate for the constitution of an international alliance for advancing the research and equitable distribution of a vaccine, as well as other life-saving tools, in order to respond to the health crisis. In this framework it has contributed to the creation of the ACT-Accelerator, the most advanced cooperation platform in this regard, which is producing, in record time, promising results in many areas.
• We believe that everyone will benefit from global cooperation and coordination mechanisms, especially in the context of the health response to the pandemic. Our priority is to make any available tool (especially diagnostics, therapeutics and the vaccine) as global public goods, universally and equitably available. The second priority must be to sustain resilient health systems, especially in the most vulnerable Countries, to avoid further disruptions of health services.

• Since its inception, Italy has announced more than 400 million euro contributions to sustain the global and national efforts in the context of the ACT-Accelerator and the Coronavirus Global Response Initiative, co-led with the European Union, including direct multilateral contributions to CEPI, GAVI, the Global Fund and the WHO. We are daily working within the framework of the existing governance structures to advancing our urgent goals.

• In particular, we have also been among the very first Countries to immediately pioneer the launch and financing of the GAVI Advance Market Commitment to secure the equitable access and distribution of a vaccine in 92 Developing Countries through the established GAVI Advance Market Commitment, pledging 100 million dollars so far.

• Reinforcing the international response to COVID-19 and strengthening health systems will be high on our agenda. This was confirmed by the recent announcement of a Global Health Summit to be hosted next year, in the context of our next Presidency of the G20 in 2021.

2. Financing for Development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond

• We are working intensely as we are aware of the role that Italy will have next year in leading the multilateral efforts needed to shape a better future for our citizens and the global society.

• While recognizing that the pandemic is not over, it is our duty to look beyond the immediate crisis. We must act for a sustainable, just and resilient recovery. It is in our hands to emerge from this emergency in a better way, starting from strongly maintaining our 2030 horizon for the Sustainable Development Goals.

• As Presidency of the G20 next year, our agenda will hinge on three main concepts: People, Planet and Prosperity. This means taking care of people and the planet in a holistic fashion.

• We deem it important that the G20 considers the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable countries, above all in the African continent. We should act to safeguard human lives in a context where health systems are less equipped and ensure the stability of economic systems.

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In this spirit, Italy joined the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative and we stand ready to consider a further enlargement of the initiative towards the low-income countries.

Moreover, we believe that Financing for Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda are paramount to promote a sustainable future beyond Covid-19. We must strengthen all our financing tools, maximize their impact and ensure that our investments and policies leave no one behind. This is why Italy has been fully engaged at the highest level in the FFD Process, including in the new initiative started by the UN after the outbreak of the pandemic.

Regarding the Development Working Group, we will certainly maintain consistency of action and intent with the rest of the global agenda. We will focus particularly on integrated development action at local level; on socio-economic policies and on basic service delivery and innovative financing for sustainable development as well as on integrated national financing frameworks. Of course specific focus lays on women and youth engagement and empowerment.

3. G20 Presidency and Cooperation with the OECD Development Center

• Italy has been a steadfast and longstanding supporter of the OECD Development Center including in terms of additional financial resources granted. We deem the Center a key policy-making and strategic partner, especially through its role to foster dialogue with partner Countries, advocacy and promotion of good practices.

• Most recently, in view of the G20 upcoming Italian Presidency, we chose again the OECD Development Center to be our strategic partner in the context of the Development Cooperation track. We decided to provide it additional financing in order to engage it meaningfully in the support of the Italian G20 Presidency and confirming its key role in supporting global processes in the field of international development cooperation.

• As incoming G20 Presidency, we are fully committed to facilitate, shape and uphold multilateral solutions to our global challenges as we will certainly maintain a key focus on global cooperation for the most vulnerable Countries.

The lesson that we have learnt from Covid-19 is that worst possible mistake is to believe that the problem is over when we have the impression that the disease looks under control! We have to be prepared to continue this struggle with the same commitment at multilateral and at national level.

I am confident that there are good chances that from this difficult time we might build new scope for a multilateral cooperation and promotion of common global goods.

*Lista dei 92 Paesi beneficiari del GAVI AMC – Covax Facility tramite aiuti internazionali:
List of 92 Gavi COVAX AMC-eligible countries and economies (based on 2018 and 2019 World Bank GNI data)


- **Additional IDA eligible**: Dominica, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Kosovo, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Samoa, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tonga, Tuvalu.