

FINAL DECLARATION OF THE
7TH ITALIAN-LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE

The 7th Italian-Latin American and Caribbean Conference:

Confirms the strategic importance of the relations between Italy and the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, starting from their historical cultural, social and economic bonds, as well as those in the field of human mobility, and their interest in strengthening a fruitful space based on peace, progress and collaboration by intensifying the political dialogue among the countries concerned;

Reiterates the commitment undertaken by Italy and the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to leverage the special nature of their relations and promote a prolonged and growing exchange based on taking shared decisions, as well as the commitment to strengthen the region's institutions and contribute to its development.

Reaffirms that the commitment to multilateralism constitutes the grounds on which to promote a democratic and equitable international order that might contribute to promote sustainable development, uphold and protect human rights and consolidate global peace and security. Within this context, Italy and the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean emphasise the advisability to seek consensus so as to be able to promote initiatives and actions of mutual interest.

Recognises that Italy and the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are committed to performing actions, at international level, leading to strengthening cooperation in the field of human rights, such as the protection of the rights of boys, girls and adolescents, while promoting gender equality between men and women in all fragments of society, regardless of ethnic belonging, place of birth, age, gender, language, sexual orientation or state of health; as well as preventing gender-based violence, combating human trafficking, promoting freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief, fighting any form of discrimination and any form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Acknowledges the work carried out by Peru's Presidency within the COP-20 and reiterates its wish for continuing collaboration in meeting global challenges, especially those put forth by the post-2015 Agenda and the preparation of the next United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to be held in Paris from November 30 to December 11, 2015.

Highlights that the Universal Exposition in Milan, with the theme "Feeding the planet. Energy for Life", represents a privileged cooperation opportunity for the international community, which is called upon to make a contribution to the global challenge of finding a way of assuring good, wholesome, sufficient and sustainable food to all of Humankind and to promote a sense of responsibility and solidarity in tackling the challenges and opportunities arising from global transformation and development processes.

Italy reaffirms its commitment to promote, on the agenda of the European Union, the strengthening of relations between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean and support actions aimed at achieving and ratifying the legal instruments necessary to strengthen said relations.

Confirms the intention to continue strengthening the economic, commercial and bilateral cooperation relations by increasing exchanges and, at the same time, foster the conditions favouring investments and know-how and knowledge transfers and encouraging, to the maximum extent possible, investments and development cooperation in areas of mutual interest acting as important growth drivers with positive social repercussions. Italy and the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean highlight the commitments obtained with the instruments and efforts put forward between the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union in respect of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, and reiterate the importance of cooperation and partnership opportunities in this sector, which represents the strategic sphere in which to develop their relations.

Reiterating the importance and the eminent role played by the Italian communities present in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as by the Latin American and Caribbean communities residing in Italy, as legal entities and fostering the spirit of inclusion, hereby affirms that, among other things, said communities strengthen dialogue, the exchange of experiences and the promotion of human rights, gender equality and socio-cultural exchanges and that they are drivers of economic growth and project designing.

Expresses its satisfaction for the “Year of Italy in Latin America” initiative, which is scheduled to be extended to the first semester of 2016.

Acknowledges the role played by the Italo-Latin American Institute (IILA) as a forum of intergovernmental dialogue and the opportunities it offers in developing initiatives of common interest within the frameworks outlined in the International Convention that established it, especially in the field of SMEs, Universities, human knowledge and talent, renewable energy sources, the fight against poverty, the transfer of technology and culture and food security, and recognises the need to extend its collaboration with other entities such as the European Commission.

The 7th Italian-Latin American and Caribbean Conference decides to:

- 1.** Strengthen, intensify and extend the political dialogue and economic, social, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation through bilateral Cooperation Councils established with the different countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and with the regional organisations concerned. Hold the Italy-SICA Forum and organise similar events with other Regional Organisations.
- 2.** Perform an in-depth analysis of possible common actions to be taken in multilateral contexts and outline the initiatives of interest to Latin America and the Caribbean that Italy could undertake or support within the framework of EU-CELAC relations.
- 3.** Jointly decide the issues and the actions that Italy could perform within the Regional Organisations to which it participates with the status of observer, with the aim of obtaining concrete common benefits from the aforesaid participation.
- 4.** Acknowledge Italy’s intention to optimise its participation in regional financial institutions through synergistic actions with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean that are members of the same institutions and single out projects and initiatives of common interest.

5. Continue developing and expanding initiatives in the priority sector of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) and in the business sector in general, as the driver of development, growth and job creation. Hold the Italian-Latin American SME Forum, organised by IILA and the Mexican Government, in Mexico in November 2015, in compliance with the guidelines of the 1st Forum of December 2014, and promote a SME programme by IILA.
6. Enhance collaboration in the fields of renewable energy sources, electricity transmission grids and energy efficiency, in order to contribute to cutting power generation and electricity transmission costs and promote the sector's sustainability.
7. Promote reciprocal investments in the infrastructure sector in order to contribute to the countries' sustainable development.
8. Hold the Italian-Latin American Forum on Renewable Energy Sources.
9. Enhance support for the programmes aimed at violence prevention, security and fighting organised crime, also through technical cooperation and the exchange of experiences and information on the laws regulating the matter.
10. Increase the cooperation programmes on environmental sustainability, natural disaster prevention, mitigation and most especially adaptation, in order to avoid and remedy the losses and damages produced by climate change, acknowledging the urgency of a global commitment to preserve our planet.
11. Continue developing initiatives in the field of scientific collaboration, research and high technology, as well as in the academic world, such as the Academic Forum held by the University of Padua on 10 and 11 May, 2015 and promoted by the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI).
12. Intensify cultural exchanges and promote cooperation in the field of conservation, rehabilitation, reclamation and monetisation of the natural and archaeological national heritage.
13. Acknowledge with satisfaction the initiative jointly taken by the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Italy to hold the first Italian-Latin America Parliamentary Forum on 5 and 6 October, 2015.
14. Celebrate a commemorative event for the 50th anniversary of the founding of the IILA in 2016.
15. Urge the IILA to continue the intergovernmental dialogue strengthening process and the development of successful initiatives in those that are considered to priority sectors and, within this framework, enhance its collaboration with the European Commission by updating the 1971 *Cooperation Agreement between the Italo-Latin American Institute (IILA) and the European Community Commission* and the 1991 *Exchange of Letters between the the Italo-Latin American Institute (IILA) and the European Community Commission*.

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- 1) Acknowledges with satisfaction the provisions made in the Law of the Italian Republic N° 173 of 24 November 2014, which reads: “With the aim of enhancing the development of Italy’s relations with the countries of the Latin American region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Italo-Latin American Institute, convenes every two years the Italian-Latin American and Caribbean Conference, in compliance with the provisions of the final declaration of the 6th Italian-Latin American and Caribbean Conference, which was held in Rome on 12 and 13 December 2013”.
- 2) Expresses the wish that other IILA member countries adopt similar provisions;
- 3) Convenes the 8th Italian-Latin American and Caribbean Conference, to be held in Rome in the autumn of 2017.

Milan, 13 June, 2015.