



**PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Italy,
Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi**

Fighting Climate Change: Sharing Italy's Innovative Technologies

12 April 2016, 3:00-5:30pm, Conference Room 11

Excellencies, Ms. Kingo, Mr. Hart, Mr. Dossal,

I am honored to be accompanied, at this conference, by such important panelists, both from the institutional world of the United Nations and from the public and private sector in Italy.

I do not need to stress how important the year 2015 has been for sustainable development. But I will highlight the relevance that has rightfully been given, during this past year, to environmental issues.

A fundamental conference took place in Japan, adopting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction. We witnessed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, where, apart from the specific SDGs 13, 14 and 15, the environmental dimension of sustainable development was crosscutting among all goals. Finally, an historical agreement was reached in Paris during the COP21, and Mr. Hart here has been one of the main brokers of that deal.

Against this significant background, we wanted to host an event devoted to tackling climate change. But not limiting ourselves to making statements: we wanted to actually show what Italy is doing to fight climate change.

With just one look at my country's shape on a map, you can see endless coastal shores and hundreds of islands making Italy one of the countries most impacted by climate change. Rising sea levels and ocean acidification can compromise our marine ecosystem and coasts and the related economy. In a few minutes you will be shown how the Italian Government has reacted in order to prevent the famous city of Venice from being flooded by rising waters. Some of you may remember that, when we were in Venice last October, immediately following the UN Conference on Food Security in SIDS countries in Milan, we had a chance to see the MOSE system in action.

Despite its relatively small size, Italy has a tremendous geographic heterogeneity. This means that climate change, at all levels, is a major concern for us.

Something needed to be done. Let me say that Italians took the bull by the horns. In recent years, our best minds have come up with some of the most groundbreaking solutions to cope with all of these challenges.

Beyond delivering statements, today we want to show you how Italy is dealing with climate change in a very pragmatic way. I don't want to spoil anything about the technologies that you will learn about very soon. Let me just say that today, at this conference, you will see some of the finest products of Italian technology.

I am proud to be sharing all of this with our friends at the United Nations. I sincerely believe and hope that showcasing these technologies will spark new ideas and partnerships. And I am convinced that offering tangible, concrete solutions, more than just simple words, can testify the firm commitment of Italy - at any level and in any governing body of the United Nations - to effectively address the issue of climate change.

Let me just mention, for example, one of our latest multilateral initiatives on the environment, as evidence of our commitment: the Conference we hosted in Rome in March on the protection of marine areas.

As you can see, in Italy we directly experience the effects of climate change every single day and we understand how it is a concern shared by many Member States. That is why we will continue to actively promote this pragmatic approach in the next years, as we have already done in the past.

Finally, I would also like to stress that we envisaged this initiative as something going beyond the conference itself. We added a specific exhibition focusing on the very same subjects that will be discussed in the next two hours. The exhibit began yesterday and will last until Friday. It features more than a dozen panels illustrating the technologies, some monitors where videos on those technologies are being played on a loop, and a real-size sample of one of the robotic fish that will be presented today. You will find the exhibition in this corridor outside the conference room and in the Delegates' Entrance on the first floor.

In that same Delegates' Entrance area, I will be honored to offer a cocktail immediately following our conference.

I thank you.