



Fighting Climate Change: Sharing Italy's Innovative Technologies

12 April 2016, 3:00 – 5:30 pm

Conference Room 11

Background

With 8,300 kilometers of coastal shores and more than 450 islands, Italy is one of the countries most impacted by climate change. Rising sea levels and ocean acidification damage Italy's marine ecosystem and the entire economy that depends on it. The survival of the historic city-island of Venice (a UNESCO World Heritage site) is at risk, as can be seen during the regular periods of flooding known as "acqua alta" (high waters).

Italy is at the same time a country with thousands of kilometers of mountain ranges (including the world-famous Alps): in fact, there is no region in Italy without mountains. The negative repercussions of climate change have also been felt in these geographic areas: for years the Italian population has been struggling against the effects of rapidly melting glaciers, along with avalanches and landslides in mountainous and hilly terrains.

Because of its geographic heterogeneity (it is also the country with the highest level of biodiversity in the European Union), Italy has been hard hit by the climate changes of recent decades: in some areas there has been an increase in devastating natural catastrophes such as floods, while Southern Italy has to wage a daily battle against desertification, which reduces its water resources and jeopardizes economic development.

This reality has led Italy, at both the public and private levels, to take the lead in managing the challenges of climate change. Italian institutions and enterprises (such as CAE, Consorzio Venezia Nuova, ENEA, ENEL Green Power, ENI, Telespazio) are actively developing state-of-the-art concrete solutions to address and prevent the harmful effects of climate change and the hands-on application of these innovations.

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN is thus proud to share with the UN membership a few outstanding examples of Italian technology in the field, in the hope that this demonstration may spark ideas and strengthen the universal commitment we have undertaken to combat climate change, in the spirit of the agreement reached at COP 21 in Paris.

Objectives

The conference will give an overview of some of the leading technologies produced by Italy to address and prevent the harmful effects of climate change.

The goal of these technologies is to:

- Protect islands and coastlines from the rising levels of the seas and oceans;
- Use satellite images to track and monitor the impact of climate change (desertification, floods, pollution, rising sea levels, natural catastrophes, melting of glaciers);
- Protect and monitor marine areas through the use of robotic fish schools;
- Produce energy from clean and renewable sources (solar and marine), so as to no longer depend on polluting energy sources;
- Monitor sea levels to prevent flooding and inundations.

During the week of April 11-15, 2016, there will also be an exhibit of these technologies – illustrated through large panels, videos, and scale models – in two areas of the United Nations General Assembly Building: the *Delegates' Entrance* and the *Basement Corridor*.

Programme

- 3.00 pm Introduction by the moderator, **Mr. Amir Dossal**, Founder and Chairman, Global Partnerships Forum
- 3.05 pm Opening remarks by **Amb. Sebastiano Cardi**, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations
- 3.10 pm Remarks by **Ms. Lise Kingo**, Executive Director, UN Global Compact
- 3.20 pm Presentation by **Prof. Francesco Ossola**, Special Chief Executive Officer, Consorzio Venezia Nuova: *Safeguarding Venice and its lagoon with the MOSE system*
- 3.40 pm Presentation by **Mr. Claudio Moriconi**, Head of Robotics Laboratory, ENEA: *Robotic fish for underwater monitoring of the marine environment*
- 4.00 pm Presentation by **Mr. Riccardo Amoroso**, Head of Innovation and Sustainability, ENEL Green Power: *Marine energy for sustainable development*
- 4.20 pm Presentation by **Mr. Luigi Pasquali**, Chief Executive Officer, Telespazio, and Space Sector Director, Finmeccanica: *Satellite images to monitor climate change*
- 4.40 pm Presentation by **Ms. Francesca Ferrazza**, Vice President Knowledge Management, ENI: *Groundbreaking innovations for solar panels*
- 5.00 pm Presentation by **Mr. Giancarlo Pedrini**, Vice President, CAE: *Real-time monitoring systems against floods, landslides, and wildfires*
- 5.20 pm Closing remarks by **Mr. Selwin Hart**, Director, United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team

The programme will be immediately followed by cocktails and Italian delicacies at the *Delegates' Entrance*, located on the ground floor of the General Assembly Building, at the bottom of the escalator to the second floor.