Speech by Minister Galletti

Country Statements

First of all, I wish to thank the Moroccan Presidency of Cop 22 for organizing this meeting, giving us all the opportunity to continue the common journey we embarked upon in Paris.

Since that day, we have continued to pursue and scale up our day-to-day fight against climate change, proof of this being that it entered into force only 11 months after the signing of the agreement and today, here in Marrakech, we are holding the first Conference of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

Alongside governments there are a multitude of non-state actors that have informed Cop 21 of their desire to be an active part of this effort. Their momentum has helped engender and encourage a variety of initiatives in all sectors of society and the economy, thus producing a phenomenon that is significant not only in scope, but in terms of its concrete results, as well.

In Paris, we forged an agreement which stands as a source of inspiration for concerted actions at international, national and local level, and for the enabling of an "integral ecology" invoked by Pope Francis in his encyclical, "Laudato Si'".

The year 2015 marked a turning point. In New York, we adopted a series of sustainable development goals to achieve by 2030, including some which are strictly tied to climate change, thus creating a strong linkage between climate actions, economic growth stimulus and global social and environmental programs. The subsequent adoption of the Paris Agreement definitively crystallized a climate architecture, that aims at limiting the rise in global temperature to less than 2* C compared to pre-industrial levels and, at the same time, ensuring our economic development so as to reduce vulnerabilities, particularly in the poorest areas of our planet.

Yet, in 2015 the World Meteorological Organization also reported that the limit of 400 parts per million of CO2 in the atmosphere was regularly exceeded. This is a scientific threshold, as well as being psychological, that tells us that our time is up and that we

must show our utmost determination in implementing and scaling up the Paris goals, if we want to tackle global warming credibly.

Italy wishes to state unequivocally to all the nations of the world that there is no going back. We have launched an irreversible process. This is the appeal being made by citizens the world over. It is an appeal being made by the global economy.

Faced with these challenges, Italy is ready, as always, to make its contribution and to work with the partners that have more limited capacity and resources or that are more vulnerable to climate change, like our friends in Africa or the Small Island Developing States.

Furthermore, our efforts will not be limited to international cooperation programs. In fact, we are determined to also raise this issue at the G7 level, during Italy's Presidency in 2017.