

## ITALY – Summit for Democracy – Written Statement

Italy welcomes the **Summit for Democracy**—along with the year that lies ahead—as an opportunity to mobilize collective action and help strengthen and improve democracy for the 21st century.

Democracy is a fundamental principle enshrined in the **Italian Constitution**.

Italy is strongly committed to **reinforce democratic values and institutions** at home and abroad.

Italy also actively supports the **European Union's** international efforts to strengthen democracy—and the universal rights underpinning it—as set out in the EU's founding treaties.

Italy additionally plays an active role in promoting democracy and human rights in **multilateral fora**, such as the United Nations, also through this year's Italian G20 Presidency and the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (November 2021- May 2022).

The Italian Government is undertaking bold and ambitious action to tackle the **serious challenges for democratic institutions at the national and transnational level**. In particular, by supporting efforts—through a comprehensive and holistic approach—to **strengthen democratic principles and processes**; to **cultivate responsible national and global citizenship**; to **build more open and inclusive societies** and to promote **gender equality and women's empowerment**.

Italy is fostering democracy at home. The **National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP)**—part of the Next Generation EU (NGEU)—worth € 191.5 billion (235 billion including the national Complementary Fund and “React-EU”), includes investments in six key policy areas and reforms in several areas, including Justice, Public Administration, Regulatory Simplification and Competition. Over the next years (2021-2026), these measures will pave the way for the twin digital and ecological transition and help build a more modern and democratic society.

The Italian Government also laid out **National Action Plans** in key fields in order to identify far-reaching objectives, policies and resources, for the next years, to promote equality and the rights of disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and communities.

Italy is at the forefront in the **fight against corruption**, at national and international level. Corruption hampers sustainable economic growth, distorts market competition, undermines the rule of law and erodes citizens' trust in institutions. Therefore, Italy is taking an active stance to strengthen the

global anti-corruption architecture and enhance public and private sector transparency, integrity and accountability, in line with **G20** commitments.

Italy is deeply committed, at the national and international level, to promoting and protecting all **Human Rights**, including civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights; to upholding human dignity; and to combating all forms of intolerance and discrimination. In this framework, Italy is actively contributing—in different fora including within its **Council of Europe Presidency**—to discussions to ensure that new technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), are developed and operate without infringing human rights. In November 2021, an Italian **Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTIQ+ people** was appointed, placing Italy at the forefront in this field.

**Italy pledges to do its part to cultivate democracy—now and in the future.** As we believe that democracies are best fit to enable the transformative change needed to face today and tomorrow's global challenges; to help individuals, communities, societies and Nations develop to their fullest potential; and to foster—through cooperation and dialogue—a more peaceful and better world.

## 1. The National Recovery and Resilience Plan

The **National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP)** is part of the **Next Generation EU (NGEU)**, namely the € 750 billion (in 2018 prices, for the whole EU) package that the EU approved in response to the pandemic crisis. The Italian NRPP is worth **€ 191.5 billion** allocated through the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Additional € 30.6 billion are funded through the national Complementary Fund established by Italian Decree-Law No. 59/2021, and € 13 bn through the EU programme "React-EU". **The total amount of resources is therefore € 235 billion.**

The Italian NRRP includes investments in **six policy areas (missions)** and an **ambitious reform agenda** in several fields. The Plan is consistent with RRF objectives and requirements for **the twin transition** (20% digital quota; 37% green quota). It allocates a minimum rate of 40% of resources to Southern regions. It is strongly geared towards **gender equality, social inclusion and cohesion, and support to youth education and employment.**

### Missions (NRPP plus Complementary Fund and React-EU):

- **"Digitization, Innovation, Competitiveness, Culture"** allocates € 49.8 billion to digital transformation, innovation in the production system, and investments in culture.

- “**Green Revolution and Ecological Transition**” allocates € 69.9 billion to improving the economic system’s sustainability and resilience and ensuring a fair and inclusive environmental transition.
- “**Infrastructure for Sustainable Mobility**” allocates € 31.4 billion to the development of a modern and sustainable transport infrastructure in all areas of the country.
- “**Education and Research**” allocates € 33.8 billion to strengthening the education system, digital and technical-scientific skills, research and technology transfer.
- “**Inclusion and Cohesion**” allocates € 29.8 billion to facilitating labor market participation, through training, strengthening active labor market policies and fostering social inclusion.
- “**Health**” allocates € 20.2 billion to strengthening local prevention and health services, modernizing and digitizing the health system and ensuring equal access to care.

### Reforms:

- A **Public Administration reform** to provide better services, encourage youth recruitment, invest in human capital and increase the level of digitization.
- A **Justice reform** to reduce the length of legal proceedings, especially civil proceedings, and ease backlog burden.
- Administrative and regulatory **Simplification measures**—e.g. in matters of permits, authorizations and public procurement—to maximize the impact of investments.
- Reforms to promote **Competition** as an instrument of social cohesion and economic growth.

The NRRP focuses on investments and reforms that target long-standing structural deficiencies. It is expected to have a significant impact on **economic and productivity growth**. According to estimates of the Italian Government, in 2026 the GDP will be 3.6 percentage points higher than in a baseline scenario that does not include the introduction of the Plan.

## 2. National Strategy on Gender Equality 2021-2026, Strategic Plan on Male Violence against Women 2021-2023, Initiatives to Promote Gender Equality

Italy adopted a National Strategy, several National Action Plans and far-reaching policy and investment initiatives to advance women’s rights—ensuring women’s empowerment and full,

meaningful and equal participation in social, economic and public life—and to combat gender-based violence.

The **National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2026** provides a comprehensive framework for gender equality, within policies and programs for growth and social and economic development, in line with the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025. It focuses around five themes—Employment, Income, Skills, Time and Power—and identifies indicators and target values to guide Government action and monitor the success of all initiatives.

The **National Strategic Plan on Male Violence against Women 2021-2023** identifies goals, actions and resources to counter gender-based violence, allocating € 30 million per year for its implementation. It reflects a comprehensive strategy embracing all aspects of gender-based violence: prevention; protection of victims; prosecution of men who commit violence; training and education of professionals; information and awareness; action on perpetrators; protection of migrant women and victims of multiple discrimination; labour, economic and housing autonomy; and increasing the number of women shelters.

Trafficking in human beings is a heinous crime, and a daunting challenge for the international community. Italy is developing a new **Action Plan against Human Trafficking**, which includes initiatives to prevent human trafficking; limit labor exploitation; protect victims; and strengthen the capacity and reach of the national Call Center for victims.

Italy is also deeply committed to increasing women's economic empowerment through investment initiatives.

Within this framework, Italy has also taken action by establishing the **Fondo Impresa Donna**, to promote female entrepreneurship—with an initial endowment of € 40 million and additional € 400 million of NRRP resources ("Inclusion and cohesion" Mission). The fund supports innovative women-led companies and start-ups, through non-repayable grants and subsidized loans.

The Italian Government also created a **National Certification System for Gender Equality**—with an investment of € 10 million—with a view to achieving greater women participation in the labor market and bridge the pay gap between men and women.

Furthermore, the Italian Government is promoting a measure to promote youth and female self-employment, in particular **new zero-interest companies**, supporting newly established businesses (no more than 3 years) and helping develop existing firms (no more than 5 years).

### 3. UNAR National Action Plans and Strategies to Fight Racial and Ethnic Discrimination

The Italian **National Office Against Racial Discrimination (UNAR)** works with public and private stakeholders to develop National Actions Plans, which define goals, measures and actions to combat racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia, intolerance and all forms of discrimination, including when based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

UNAR is finalizing the **National Action Plan against Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance 2021-2025**—in line with the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025—in close coordination with public and private institutions and Civil Society. Following a UNAR public call, 120 associations, specialized in the fight against ethnic and racial discrimination, are contributing to the drafting process of the National Plan.

Italy is in the process of developing a new **National LGBTI Strategic Plan**, in close cooperation with the Permanent Consultation Table for the Protection of the Rights of LGBTI People, which consists of 66 LGBTI NGOs.

In this framework, UNAR is implementing several initiatives—funded by European and national financial resources—with the aim of strengthening inclusion and diversity in the workplace; of promoting health of transgender people; and supporting victims of violence and discrimination, in cooperation with LGBTI NGOs and local administrations and with an allocated fund of € 4 million.

Italy will soon adopt the **National Roma Integration Strategy 2021-2030**, which has been drafted by UNAR—following a public bottom-up debate—in close collaboration with the **National Roma Platform**. The Roma Platform (consisting of 79 Associations) and the Forum of the Roma Communities (consisting of 25 Roma NGOs) meet several times a year to discuss issues at the national and local level and to design capacity building and training activities, as well as wider policy strategies and practices for Roma inclusion.

## 4. Social Inclusion Strategies and National Action Plans

Italy is carrying out far-reaching measure, at the national and local level, to promote social inclusion and income support based on the principle of social solidarity.

In July, Italy adopted the new **National Plan of Interventions and Social Services**, which includes the **National Social Plan 2021-2023** and the **Plan for the Fight Against Poverty 2021-2023**, in order to guarantee essential levels of service throughout the country. In this framework, **€ 619 million** have been allocated to the **Poverty Fund 2021-2023** and **€ 390 million** to the **National Social Policy Fund for 2021**.

As part of the PNRR "Inclusion and Cohesion" initiatives, Italy is undertaking far-reaching measures in the fields of social inclusion, rights of persons with disabilities, infrastructure and services for homeless people (with a budget of € 450 million for the latter project).

In 2019, Italy introduced a new minimum income scheme, the **Citizenship Income** ("**Reddito di Cittadinanza**"), in order to combat poverty, inequality and social and labour marginalization, allocating € 5.9 billion for 2019, € 7.1 billion for 2020, € 7.4 billion for 2021 and € 7.2 billion for 2022. From April 2019 to June 2020, almost 3.5 million individuals and almost 1.5 million families benefited from these measures.

In 2020, Italy adopted a **National Action Plan to Tackle Labor Exploitation in Agriculture 2020-2022** consisting of three components. The first focuses on the analysis of the causes and effects of labor exploitation and unlawful recruitment in agriculture. The second is centered on emergency interventions in the geographical areas most at risk of labor exploitation and unlawful recruitment, while the third component consists of the implementation of 10 priority actions to prevent and combat labor exploitation and unlawful recruitment, as well as protect and assist victims through a referral mechanism that leads to their socio-economic inclusion through decent work. In October 2021, the first **National Guidelines** for the identification, protection and assistance to the victims of labor exploitation in agriculture were approved. A budget of **€ 95 million** has been allocated to support initiatives benefitting victims of labor exploitation in agriculture. In addition, special taskforces have been established to carry out inspections in the field by the National Labor Inspectorate (INL) in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in order to identify cases of labor exploitation, racketeering and fraud against undocumented migrant workers.

Italy participates in the **EMPACT 2022+ exercise** (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats).

Italy is drafting a **National Operational Plan** to implement the recommendation of the Council of the EU for the establishment of a **European Child Guarantee**, in collaboration with the main stakeholders. Furthermore, it has launched a **Plan of Action** with initiatives aimed at promoting foster care for families, strengthening inclusion of foreign and unaccompanied minors, supporting young adults coming out of care, combating educational poverty and supporting families within the framework of the activities promoted by family centers.

Italy has created an **Inter-institutional Round Table** with a view to building an integrated network of **crime victim support services**. The Round Table, set-up in 2018 and coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, focuses on two main goals: 1. creating an information portal for crime victims and 2. Funding of implementation projects for support services for crime victims. Italy is also **funding advanced training projects in human rights and international criminal law**. These funds aim at promoting legal culture in criminal international law and human rights protection, through training projects for judges, lawyers, judicial police officers, public servants and public officials. Furthermore, Italy is deeply committed to restorative justice, having recently passed the **Restorative Justice Law 134/2021**, which demands the Government to introduce a comprehensive and clear set of rules for reparative justice.

Italy is carrying out actions to prevent and contrast **Criminal conduct carried out through the use of the internet**—particularly as concerns vulnerable subjects. Operational strategies have long been in place throughout the Country, aimed at identifying both the web platforms used for such criminal activities, as well as the perpetrators. Particular attention is being paid to revenge porn, cyber stalking and all those forms of aggression that fall under the recent so-called "Red Code" legislation. In terms of prevention, the Italian Government has also promoted awareness campaigns at the national and local level.

## **5. Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights (CIDU) National Action Plans**

Italy's **Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights (CIDU)** develops National Action Plans in the field of human rights, in close collaboration with Civil Society and through regular multi-stakeholder consultations.

The “**National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2020-2024**” (4<sup>th</sup> edition) aims to foster the global application of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) with a yearly budget of € 1 million.

The “**National Plan on Business and Human Rights 2021-2026**” (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) adopted in December 2021 with the aim of fostering a global playing level field for responsible business conduct in line with the U.N. 2011 Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (BHR).

The **National Plan for the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review**, launched in 2020 after the completing of the Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Geneva, in order to prepare our country for the Fourth Cycle of the UPR

## 6. Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

From November 2021 to May 2022, Italy holds the **Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe** for the eight time. Italy’s Presidency priorities are **recommitting to the shared principles and values** of the Member States; **enhancing women’s empowerment and the rights of children and adolescents**; and **building a people-centered future**.

Within the Presidency, Italy is committed to promoting higher standards, rules and recommendations in the following areas: rule of law with respect to the development and application of Artificial Intelligence; rights of the child (launch of the new CoE strategy); work-life balance in the perspective of women empowerment; restorative justice; integrity and sport; health equity and social resilience; school education on environmental sustainability; democratic citizenship for young people; and independence and accountability of prosecutors.

## 7. Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights

Italy will continue to actively contribute—in different fora (UNESCO, EU, Council of Europe, OECD)—to discussions aimed at ensuring that new technologies, such as **Artificial Intelligence**, are developed and operate without infringing human rights.

Within this framework, the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe is aiming to develop a legal framework to mitigate risks emanating from applications of AI systems



with the potential to interfere with the protection of human rights, the functioning of democracy and the observance of the rule of law, while promoting socially beneficial AI applications. Italy will organize a **high-level event in April 2022** to boost the process underway within the Council of Europe, with a view to having negotiations on the cross-cutting instrument started by the 132nd Ministerial Session in May 2022.

## **8. Appointment of Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTIQ+ people and Initiatives to Protect the Rights of LGBTIQ+ people**

Italy is deeply committed to advancing the human rights, safety and participation of LGBTIQ+ persons and communities—already an integral part of its foreign policy, as regards the protection of human dignity, the promotion of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights, and the fight against all forms of intolerance and discrimination.

In November 2021, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation appointed the Current Chair of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights, diplomat Fabrizio Petri, to the position of **Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTIQ+ people**, placing Italy at the forefront in this field. The Special Envoy will coordinate the action of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to combat discrimination and promote the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons and communities, and to support the decriminalization of homosexuality in the world.

Italy funds initiatives and humanitarian programs aimed at improving the conditions of vulnerable people part of the LGBT+ community in emergency contexts, such as Jordan. Italy is also contributing to the **Global Equality Fund (GEF)** for the LGBTI initiative for West Africa with a particular focus on Senegal.

## **9. Human Rights Initiatives at the International Level**

Italy is strongly committed to promoting human rights on the international level. Respecting Human Rights is pivotal to international peace and security, conflict prevention, sustainable development, peace and reconciliation, and to build stable and inclusive societies.

In this framework, Italy will make, among others, a voluntary contribution to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (**OHCHR**) to support its activity in Afghanistan.

Italy supports the 2030 Agenda. The **National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)** is the national reference framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs at the national level. Human Rights are embedded in all the six areas of the Strategy: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership and Sustainability Enablers.

Italy has taken a leading role on the Sustainable Development Goal #16 "Peace Justice and strong institutions", hosting two editions of the **Conference on the State of Implementation of SDG16**, organized together with UNDESA and IDLO. The last edition focused on the impact of the pandemic on the three pillars of SDG16 with a particular focus on the most vulnerable people—including women, young people, people with disabilities—as well as on the challenges and lessons learned for recovery and for rebuilding more resilient societies.

Italy supports the **Call to Action on the Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies** and contributions to humanitarian initiatives aimed at fighting **Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in emergency contexts** and improving access to **Sexual and Reproductive Health Services (SRH)**. Italy is committed to implementing the 2016-2020 Call to Action Roadmap and is adhering to the 2021-2025 Roadmap. Italy annually funds humanitarian initiatives carried out both by the main international organizations and the NGOs active in this field.

Italy is supporting projects to **strengthen human rights awareness among public officials** in third Countries through international technical assistance programs and awareness campaigns. In 2019-2021, initiatives and projects worth € 1.4 million were funded and implemented; the allocated budget for 2022-2024 amounts to € 1.5 million for the period.

Italy is committed to further contributing to the definition of the EU position in the negotiations within the **UN Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIGWG)** for a legally binding instrument on **Business & Human Rights**.

Italy is engaged in promoting a **reform of the accreditation procedures of NGOs to the relevant ECOSOC Committee**.

Italy actively supports the implementation of the **EU comprehensive sanctions mechanism for human rights violations**.

Italy has endorsed the “**Declaration Against the Use of Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations**” launched by Canada and since the outset we have supported this initiative both at a bilateral level and within the European Union. We are also supporting G7 coordination in this field.

## 10. Initiatives to Strengthen and Safeguard Media Freedom

Italy is implementing further measures to strengthen and safeguard media freedom.

Italy pledged a contribution to the **Global Media Defence Fund (GMDF)**, the UNESCO multi-partner trust fund established in 2019 as part of the Global Campaign for Media Freedom under the overall umbrella of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

Italy supports the **Platform for the Protection and Safety of Journalists** promoted by the Council of Europe, in order to promote a constant monitoring of cases threatening freedom of expression and the safety of journalists.

## 11. Initiatives to Promote and Protect a Global, Open, Free, Stable and Secure Cyberspace

The Italian Government is deeply committed to promoting and protecting a global, open, free, stable and secure cyberspace grounded in human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law.

Italy recently published the **Italian position on the applicability of International Law in Cyberspace** and, within this framework carries out national seminars as well as international outreach activities. These will be further developed in the context of **Cyber Capacity Building (CCB)** initiatives currently being shaped.

We are committed, as pledged in the latest G7 Summit, to oppose internet shutdowns and also in this spirit, we joined the **Freedom Online Coalition** in August 2021. In addition, Italy is a member of both the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace and the Christchurch Call to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online.

The Italian Government welcomes the opening to signature and ratification of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Additional Protocol** to the **Budapest Convention on Cybercrime** and is organizing a signing event and Conference during the Italian Presidency of Council of Europe.

Italy supports the **Counter Ransomware Initiative** and is currently developing national counter-ransomware strategies; identifying areas where international cooperation among partners can advance shared objectives; and elaborating proposals for cooperative initiatives.

## 12. Initiatives to Combat Electoral Interference

Italy is increasing funding for fact-checking, media literacy, and disinformation research and exposure. In this regard, the Italian Government cooperates and supports the **Italian Digital Media Observatory (IDMO)**. Launched on Sept 20, 2021, IDMO is one of the eight National Observatories part of the **European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO)**. As independent bodies, the observatories are in charge of monitoring and reporting on the impact of disinformation and fake news, and of spreading good and best practices on the use of digital media, through e-literacy and fact checking. IDMO will also provide support to national authorities in Italy for the monitoring of online platforms' policies and the digital media ecosystem. Italy is funding **€ 11 million** for the EDMO project (8 hubs) through the Connecting Europe Facility of the EU.

Italy supports capacity-building initiatives aimed at delivering **electoral assistance in third countries**. The Italian Government supports a variety of initiatives and projects, ranging from training courses aimed at public officials involved in the organizations of democratic elections to traditional **election observation missions**. The aim is to strengthen the legal framework and technical skills of public officials in the run up and during the elections. In 2019-2021, initiatives and projects worth € 2.4 million were funded and implemented. The funding envisaged for the 2022-2024 period is of around € 2.5 million.

## 13. Enacting Export Control Regimes

The new **EU Export Control Regulation 821/2021** has set up a regime for the control of exports, brokering, technical assistance, transit and transfer of dual-use items (recast) and Italy is working to update its national legislation accordingly. We will pay particular attention to improving controls on surveillance technologies. Italy will also raise awareness on the issue, organizing seminars and training sessions for national companies and business associations.

## 14. Initiatives in the Fight against Corruption

Italy has been at the forefront in the fight against corruption.

Italy has developed a **coordination mechanism on anticorruption** within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, which also cooperates with the civil society and the private sector. Launched in 2015, the mechanism aims at ensuring a coherent position of Italy at international level and has been qualified as a successful best practice, also according the 2016-2021 United Nations Convention against Corruption Second Cycle Country Review Report.

In this framework, Italy is working on the implementation of **EU anti-money-laundering regulations**, which have important implications in the field of corruption prevention. Among these, the **legislation on the beneficial owner** contemplates—for legal persons and for trusts—disclosure obligations to banks, professionals and other subjects with whom they enter into a business relationship. In addition, Italy is engaged in the establishment of the **register of beneficial owners**, as part of the Action Plan of the **G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group**.

Italy supports the **Team Europe Initiatives on Justice and Security** funded by the EU Commission and developed in Latin American and the Caribbean Region, through the Italo-Latin American Institute (IILA), such as: 1. EL PAcCTO (penitentiary system), 2. EUROFRONT (Integrated Border Management), and 3 COPOLAD III (fight against drug trafficking, organized crime and money laundering).

The Italian Government actively supports **EU Civilian Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) Missions** aimed at fostering the development of autonomous capacities and of appropriate institutions, also with a view to allowing partner countries to fight and pre-empt corruption. Italy will support ambitious targets to improve the effectiveness of EU Civilian CSDP Missions, also within the context of the EU Strategic Compass.

Italy supports a variety of initiatives and projects in Latin America and Africa. Among them, the **“Falcone-Borsellino programme”**, an Italian-funded multidimensional initiative dedicated to the prevention and repression of new and sophisticated forms of corruption, and the infiltration of organized crime in the public sector and in national economies. In the 2019-2021 timeframe, initiatives and projects worth € 1.8 million were funded and implemented. Around € 2 million are envisaged for the 2022-2024 period.

Italy is engaged in **implementing G20 commitments in the anti-corruption domain**, and—as part of the Troika—in developing the **G20 2022-2024 Action Plan** deliverables. In particular it is working on the implementation of the following commitments: 1. enhance public and private sector transparency, integrity and accountability and international cooperation; 2. prevent and combat safe haven for corruptors and their illicit profits; 3. promote asset recovery; 4. develop Beneficial Ownership Transparency; 5. raise awareness on improving corruption measurement to have reliable indicators and fine-tune policies, strategies and actions.

Italy is taking action to contribute to the implementation of the **High-Level Principles on Corruption related to Organized Crime** and the **High-Level Principles on Preventing and Combating Corruption in Emergencies**.

The Italian Government is deeply engaged also within the **Open Government Partnership Framework** (OGP) to promote open government, empower citizens, fight corruption and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. Italy will assume the OGP Steering Committee's co-Chairmanship in 2022. The Open Government Partnership Global Summit (December 15-17) hosted by the Republic of Korea will offer an important opportunity to advance progress in this field.

Italy supports the EU Commission in the adoption of the **“Digital package” (Digital Government Act, Digital Service Act, Digital Market Act)**, with a view to implementing stringent regulations on the use of data on the internet and access to information.

The Italian Government is in favor of adopting more advanced and binding rules than those already existing within the OECD and the UN in order to eradicate corruption through transparency. Italy will dispose of a stricter national regulatory framework concerning corporate social responsibility as soon as the relevant **EU regulation** enters into force.

The **National Recovery and Resilience Plan includes upgraded measures aimed at preventing and fighting corruption, promoting transparency and checking in the field of public contracts**. A **stronger coordination framework** has also been envisaged. For example: the audit service at the Ministry of Economy and Finance will be tasked with coordinating audit systems and controls with the support of the State Territorial Accounts Office. Enhanced arrangements with *Guardia di Finanza* and relevant independent authorities such as the national anti-corruption agency (ANAC) will be concluded, thus reinforcing the role that the Italian legal system already attributes to these authorities. All Information relating to the planning, choice of contractor, awarding and execution

of works in the field of public procurement will be managed and transmitted to the public contracts database through the use of interoperable IT platforms. Data of all contracts and sub-contracts are to be registered and published.