Delegation from. Represented by

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***United Nations Framework on Climate Change***

**Topic 1: The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health**

As we already know climate change and extreme climate variability are, and will continue to be, a threat to human health and life. Although this seriously poses a risk for developing countries, also it poses a risk to warmer and coastal countries, such as Italy. Italy experiences extremely warm temperatures in the Summer, leaving civilians exposed to heat stress, extreme air temperature rise, and a decline in annual precipitation. In one of the most recent heat waves, it caused many untimely deaths, especially that of elderly people. There was an overall increase in mortality of 3,134 with a 5% increase in excess deaths per degree observed. In the northern parts of Italy, our glaciers melt away as our coastal waters continue to rise, leaving low-lying cities at an extreme risk, such as Venice. As snow and glacier cover goes down it creates a cycle of disastrous proportions in terms of UV rays. Projections say the mediterranean region will warm at a rate of about 0.1 to 0.4 degrees celsius each year. With the speed of melting increasing, the glaciers of Italy to disappear by 2050 according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The fate of the Calderone, one of Italy’s most famous glaciers has already been confirmed as it will be gone by 2020. This melted water contributes to rising water levels and more earth exposed for UV rays to be absorbed. There is not a consensus on what the melting snow and ice would do to the sea levels but even very optimistic estimates have it at around 1.5 metres. This sea level rise would put many coastal towns and some of Italy's cultural monuments at risk. First, the famous sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum, and the leaning tower of Pisa would be swept away by the tide. Venice, the city known worldwide to be built in water would be absolutely destroyed. Crops like grapes which can grow extremely well in the cool, dry winters and in the long, warm summers would be burnt up in the heat of the climate. Studies by the IPCC show by 2050 Italy could lose the majority of its growable areas. Wine production will have been destroyed making our precious wine extremely expensive. Italy has long identified that climate change will seriously impact our country and the health of the people. Throughout 2002 and 2003 when heat waves struck, we enacted a plan to deal with heat stroke and other heat inflicted injuries. Italy has also put into place measures for evacuation and adaption for floods when coastal cities and towns are hit. We developed the *Environmental Action Strategy for Sustainable Development in Italy* which conveys our solutions for a future that limits that will be able to survive climate change. The solutions that were put forth were as stated:

* *integration of environmental issues into other policy making processes;*
* *the preference for an aware economic and environmental lifestyle;*
* *an increase in the global efficiency of resource usage;*
* *refusal of the “end cycle” intervention approach and promotion of prevention policies;*
* *general waste reduction;*
* *stretching the lifetime of goods;*
* *ending of material cycles of production consumption;*
* *development of local markets and local productions;*
* *promotion of typical products and traditional cultures;*
* *involvement of social parties in setting goals, commitments and sharing responsibilities*

**Topic 2: Climate refugees**

One of the major problems faced with climate change is the fact that populated areas hit hard by climate change causes migration to cooler climates. Italy and Europe has been flooded with refugees since the droughts in northern Africa and in conflicts in such as Syria. In our country there has not been a good response as increasingly violent protests are breaking over the problem and cultural strains made by the arrival of so many new refugees. The mayor of Rome has said that the city does not have the resources to take in anymore refugees. The northern areas of our country known to be wealthier, were called on to help with the flooding of so many new bodies and refused. Meanwhile our coast guard has to bring 1,800 people from sea while 2000 die at sea just last year. Italy has not yet experienced the internal migration effects of climate change but has experienced what happens with long term droughts as exemplified by the 43000 Syrian refugees . The other problem with these environmental refugees is that they are not protected by international laws or United Nations statutes. They face immense political risks in our country where our economy is not stable enough as it is. Italy as a whole faces and dislikes the crisis of the 100000 illegal immigrants that have come to our country by sea. Italy has set up camps in Lake Como and Ventimiglia for immigrants and created a relocation process for the refugees. Italy is actively trying to move the 30000 migrants in and around Ventimiglia, on the Italy-France border. Italy cannot shoulder this immense number of climate refugees alone, especially for the whole of Europe. Developing plans to deal with the number of climate change is an immediate goal for Italy and the European Union and it should be of immediate priority when it comes to climate change.

**Topic 3: Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Green House Gas Emissions**

The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference can go down as the moment when the steps were put into place for the world to solve and deal with the pressing issue of climate change; or it could go down as just another half measure. We will only be able to reach our agreement if we are able to agree on set targets and make the agreement legally binding. Italy fully supports this agreement and is waiting for approval to ratify. The long-term goal is to keep the average global temperatures well below 2 degrees and to pursue and possibly attain the average of 1.5 degrees for the global temperature. Having the average be around 1.5 degrees would be monumental in improving the global effects of climate change. The Italian government call a plan of action for citizens, companies, trade unions, and local and national policy makers to aim for the 1.5 degrees goal. A budget of 100 billion will be put forth by the European Union for the Green Climate fund. This will provide financial aid and assistance to support and develop countries that are vulnerable for climate change for policies. From the *Italian Climate Network* there are three directions of actions that can enhance the agreement implementation into italy:

* *ADAPTATION: in Italy adaptation is too often misunderstood with disaster risk reduction. It is therefore necessary from the Government a series of effective actions for effective planning and implementation of adaptation actions at the national, region and local level. European founds should be taken into account for financing when possible;*
* *MITIGATION: the international community is moving towards the zero emission goals and Italy cannot be left behind. We need to start a real energetic plan towards this goal in order to not miss energy transition investment opportunities;*
* *DISINVESTMENT: the public and private institutions have to divest from fossil fuels and to begin to invest in renewables, energy efficiency and circular economy.*

**Past Actions and Bloc Position:**. One of the most important moments for global development in Climate change was the Rio+20 or the earth summit in 2012. It introduced one of the key ideas for us here today and that was sustainable development. We need to focus on the long term subjects that were brought forth including water, oceans, energy, food and disasters.

The European Union`s position was as the first major union to put forth its intended goals and contributions to aid developing countries that are vulnerable to climate change and provide assistance, the EU will also be a part of the countries to use $100,000,000,000 every year until 2020(possibly until 2025) to combat the effects of climate change and support research and development for a brighter future.

**Italy Background**





*Government*

* Italy or what is officially known as the Italian Republic, is located in Southern Europe specifically on the Italian Peninsula. Italy is also part of the two biggest islands in the mediterranean sea in Sicily and Sardinia. It shares with four countries, France, Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia.
* Italy is a democratic republic and referred to as a free country.
* The head of state is Sergio Mattarella the 12th president of Italy
* The official language of Italy is Italian
* Italy allies or countries they like to deal with are the 26 member states of NATO or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (including US, UK, Canada and France) and the 27 member states of the EU or the European Union which is basically every country within the Europe Region

*People*

* The population of Italy is 59, 802, 068 as of Tuesday, October 25th, 2016 based on the latest United Nations estimate with about a 0.23% population growth rate.
* Italy is a extremely Christian country, with about 88% of the population belonging to the Roman Catholic Church. The Vatican City, located in Rome is the centre of the Catholic Church
* The quality of life for Italy was ranked 25th out of 61. The net adjusted disposable income per capita is around 25 166 in US dollars

*Development*

* Italy is a 1st world country in terms of development. It has a stable economy with many trade partners, tourism, and growth rates in most segments
* Italy has a mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and cool,damp winters. Coastal areas seldom become too cool but the northern region experiences snow and ice in the winter.
* Their development problems are the treatment of women, justice system, organised crime and corruption, politics and the north and south divide.
* Their innovations are deep rooted in their history with them developing things such as paddle boat, parachute, hydrofoil, banks, botanical gardens, concrete and eyeglasses. They are also known for their innovation in sports cars with companies such as Lamborghini and Ferrari representing some of the best car motors and designs available
* It has not met the Millennium Development Goal target with some goals needing development

*Economy*

* Italy’s economic system has a very diversified industrial economy, dominated by private companies and less developed agricultural systems, it has a combination of command and free market.
* Italy has a GDP per capita of about 35, 925.88 USD, with a total GDP of 1.86 trillion dollars, and is the 3rd largest economy the Euro zone.
* Italy’s major cities include Rome, Milan, Naples, Turin, Venice, Florence Genoa and Palermo
* Italy has an efficient, modern, large infrastructure but compared to other comparable countries it performs poorly
* It is a member state of the European Union and a participant in the World Trade Organization
* Italy’s major exports are machinery, metals and metal products, clothing and footwear, motor vehicles, luxury vehicles, and of course beverages and Tobacco. Italy’s major imports are gas and minerals, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and food and beverages
* Biggest Importers: Germany, China and France

Biggest Exporters: Germany, France and the US

* It is a donor nation in both the IMF and World Bank. It finances projects, policies and programs to end poverty in the developing country
* Italy has a multitude of Natural resources. It has full control of its mineral industry and has reserves in natural gas, mercury, zinc and more. It is covered mostly by mountains so it is not very suitable for farming,
* Energy Sources: Hydro 21.5%, Geothermal 2.1%, 57.4% non renewable sources, 5.4% wind, 8.0% Solar.

*Military*

* Italy’s Military organization also known as the Italian Armed Forces includes navy, army, and the air force. It also has the a national military police known as the Carabinieri.
* The military uses 1.27% of the GDP. Its military is equipped with high quality pistols and assault rifles. Italy does not have nuclear capability but is one of the nuclear weapon sharing states in NATO.

*United Nations*

* Italy has never been involved in a conflict with the UN instead playing a very prominent role in the peacekeeping of the United Nations
* The peacekeeping of the UN is very important for Italy’s foreign policy. They are the leading supplier of “Blue Helmets” in the European Union and is in the 8th top contributor to funding of the UN with 3.74% of the 5.5 billion dollar budget
* Italy has not been cited by the UN for human rights violations
* That climate change could be fatal to Italy’s climate, cities and economy (continued in the position paper)
* Recent article: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/earthquake-italy-1.3822498>

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