



# 10<sup>TH</sup> ITALY-LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE

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The future of an age-old partnership.

ROME, OCTOBER 25 – 26, 2021

## PLANET

**“Starting anew from the sea and climate: coastal and port towns at the heart of the recovery.”**

### Context

The **United Nations Ocean Decade (2021-2030)** symbolically got underway at a moment when the pandemic has slowed down intensive exploitation of seas and nature has started to take back some spaces. But the **30 by 30 goal** – in relation to the Ocean Unite Network, an initiative launched by Great Britain and which Italy joined on 8 June 2020, that aims to protect at least 30% of the world’s seas and oceans by 2030 – will require much greater efforts than just a slowdown of pollutant activities. Our oceans covering two thirds of the planet, which are overheated by climate change, subjected to intensive exploitation and suffocated by tons of plastic, need to be protected.

The 2021 G20 will pay particular attention to **fighting marine plastic pollution**, promoting circular plastic production and consumption and supporting the **blue economy and ecological transition**, carrying on the work of COP 25 hosted by Chile and known as the “Blue COP”. In addition to being an oxygen source, oceans absorb more than a quarter of the total carbon dioxide, contribute to food safety and create decent jobs and livelihoods.

**Protection of the oceans starts above all from the mainland and from port and coastal towns:** in fact 80% of marine pollution originates from here.

Therefore, the goals of the **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development No. 11 (Sustainable Cities

and Communities) and No. 14 (Life Below Water) must be considered synergically. **Italy**, with its 8300 km of coastline and countless port and coastal towns, **has significant similarities with the problems faced by the majority of LAC countries, in relation to both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and the Caribbean Sea.** Some Italian coasts are also threatened by the **increase of water levels due to climate change**, just like the coasts of LAC countries.

### Content

*What balance can be found between the needs of mankind and recovery and protection of the environmental and marine systems of port and coastal towns which are often complicated systems, of historical, artistic and environmental interest and important from an economic and tourism viewpoint? What are the best blue economy strategies for the long-term development of ports (including small and island ports) so that their role as the driving force of sustainable growth of coastal areas can be strengthened? What are the possibilities for the expansion of protected marine areas and fighting marine plastic pollution? The challenge of climate change in the specific context of the Caribbean Sea. Technological innovation as an instrument to curb the phenomena of climate change and depletion of the ecosystem.*

