

## Italy – 2 (a)

Tuesday 16 May

### Agenda item 2 Theme topic: “Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development”

- I thank the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and the UN Under-Secretary General and UN-ESCAP Executive Secretary for gathering so many countries together today, to discuss on issues of common interest.
- Italy attaches the utmost importance to the cooperation with the Asia-Pacific region, as our implementation document of the EU Strategy in the Indo-Pacific proves.
- UN-ESCAP is one of the most inclusive platforms for regional dialogue and we appreciate its key role in the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda, by fostering regional resilience, promoting an inclusive and green economy, handling the consequences of natural disasters and the reduction of inequalities, tackling food security and promoting women’s empowerment.
- 3.6 trillion \$ are necessary every year to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; a growing figure due to the consequences of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine. To this end, Italy has committed itself to allocate 0.7% of Gross National Income to ODA [Official Development Assistance]. In 2021, the Italian ODA exceeded 5 billion euros overall, or 0.29% of GNI, up from 0.22% in the previous two years.
- Accelerating the clean energy transition and assisting the fragile Countries is a strategic goal for Italy: we participate in the Just Energy Transition Partnership with Indonesia and Vietnam. We are also ready to work together to establish the “loss and damage” mechanism agreed upon at COP27, based on the principle of solidarity.
- We also work to enhance the capacities of Asian and Pacific countries to address Disaster Resilience and implement Early Warning mechanisms. As ASEAN Development Partners we hosted three capacity building initiatives operated by the Italian Civil Protection Department, together with our avant-garde scientific and technical centers dealing with disaster risk management. We are now working on a new initiative with the AHA Centre.
- As Dialogue Partner of PIF, Italy is committed to strengthening resilience and adaptation to climate change for the most vulnerable Pacific Islands. In 2019, we hosted the SIDS Directors in charge of Civil Protection for a high level training and last year we focused on enhancing the negotiating capacities of diplomats from the “Blue Continent”.
- It is in the same spirit that we support the precious work of UN-ESCAP. In 2021 we contributed with 260.000 euro to the “Multi-Donor Trust Fund for tsunami, disaster and climate preparedness”. Thank you!