

Madam President, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen,
we are approaching the end of this Conference and whereas all of us fully share the view that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human beings and the planet, we have not been able – yet – to use such common awareness to deliver a sufficiently ambitious outcome.

It is time to overcome the polarized discussion about the future of Kyoto and use this Conference to secure a firm basis for a fair, balanced, credible and global climate change regime.

It is not the intention of my country to put at risk the survival of the Kyoto Protocol. Italy is ready to do its part under the Kyoto Protocol as we fully recognize the need that developed countries take the lead. However the Kyoto Protocol alone is not sufficient to meet the 2°C objective.

In such respect my country's view on the future of the Kyoto Protocol is clear: it has to represent a transition towards a framework that allows us a strengthened and enlarged cooperation for emission reductions and for accelerating the world-wide transition towards a green economy that in addition to climate protection, promotes sustainable development and contributes to poverty eradication around the world. Such cooperation have to be framed in a way to offer opportunities to all countries, regardless of the structure of their economy and their level of development.

In this perspective Italy is committed to continue and strengthen the bilateral cooperation with developing countries, in particular the Small Pacific Islands, the multilateral programmes with the UN Agencies, the joint projects on technology innovation in clean energy with China, Brazil, Mexico, Morocco, Tunisia.

We cannot lock ourselves in insecure, inefficient and high-carbon global system. On the contrary we need a strategy for long term technology innovation so that emission

reduction will not focus only on existing technologies but also on the promotion of new technologies towards the decarbonization of our economies.

This will go along with promotion of adaptation for developing countries.

In order to do that in an effective way common and certain rules and implementing procedures are needed to catalyze investment in low carbon, climate resilient growth.

For this reason the transition should end with a legally-binding framework including mitigation commitments in particular for all major economies, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

We know that at the moment the political context poses severe challenges to reach such goal, however in such evolving scenario we have to be prepared and have the appropriate instruments to capture progress.

In our view a roadmap towards a legally binding framework represents the instrument for not losing our way to a successful outcome of the negotiations. The roadmap should be clear and robust and should include a timeline with a final date.

There is no excuse for not approving such roadmap here in Durban.

We are ready to do our part and we are confident that here in Durban we can take another step forward in our common fight against global climate change.