

PROGETTO DI INTERVENTO

Thank you, Ambassador Marrapodi,

Mr. Liu, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs,

Ms. Beagle, Director General of IDLO,

Honorable Ministers, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

*It is a great pleasure to **welcome you to the Second SDG16 Conference** on “Transforming Governance for a more peaceful, just and inclusive future: SDG16 as the Roadmap to respond to Covid-19 and Build Back Better”.*

***Italy**, as a strong advocate of the SDG16, is particularly keen to “virtually host” in Rome this Conference, organized **in collaboration with our partners UNDESA and IDLO**.*

*Since the early negotiations of the 2030 Agenda, **we have been committed to support the need to bridge peace and development through the pillars of justice, good governance, respect for fundamental freedoms, human rights and the Rule of Law**.*

*We have often defined **SDG16 as one of the main enablers of the 2030 Agenda**. It is the principle that **shapes the social pact between People and Institutions**, which is essential to create an environment where Justice, the Rule of Law, and the promotion of Human Rights can thrive.*

*Food insecurity, extreme poverty, lack of biodiversity, inadequate access to healthcare and quality education are **issues that cannot be faced without good governance, both at local and global levels**. **Institutions** are fundamental drivers*

of development, determining success or failure in tackling poverty, reducing inequality and sharing prosperity.

*Governance and institutions are also vital to building the **peaceful, just and inclusive societies promised by SDG16. Failures and abuses by justice institutions are potent drivers of exclusion and insecurity.** Dysfunctional and discriminatory institutions can fuel the **grievances that lead to violence and conflict.** Insecurity makes it harder for societies to build the institutions they need in order to develop sustainability.*

*The **COVID-19 pandemic has made the need for good governance even more urgent,** acting as a stress test for institutions. It has created extraordinary new demands on governments and has increased risk of corruption that could challenge their legitimacy in the long term. It has also **dramatically emphasized the importance of the Goal16 for successful national responses, promoting an equitable, just and sustainable recovery to build resilience to future shocks and crises.***

*An equitable, just and sustainable recovery means that we need to **support the most vulnerable members of our societies and provide equal opportunities for all.** The fight against all forms of discrimination based on race, social origins, religion, political belief, disability, age, sexual orientation and gender identity is a **top priority that transparent and credible institutions should guarantee through the effectiveness of the Rule of Law.***

*A just recovery implies **renewing our commitment to tackle gender inequality.** Too many women and girls are still left behind, with **no chance to enjoy equal rights.** Too many are deprived of resources and opportunities. Too many have their voices silenced and too many are denied their fundamental right of access to justice.*

*Building resilience to future shocks and crises can only start by **renewing the social contract to rebuild trust between people and***

State. To this end, we need to ensure equity in the delivery of services, to strengthen public participation, transparency and accountability, to support the independence of judicial institutions and to reinforce action to fight corruption.

Despite these enormous challenges, the crisis must also be considered an opportunity to **reimagine the role of institutions and policymaking**, promote new governance norms and shift to transformative pathways that strengthen resilience and accelerate action to achieve the SDGs.

That is why I am pleased to note that so many **distinguished policymakers, heads of multilateral organizations, representatives of civil society and academia are participating in this Conference**, in order to undertake a **multi-stakeholder assessment of the impact of the pandemic on progress towards SDG16**. The Conference will at the same time address the transformative contribution that SDG16 can make in helping to **safeguard and accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda**.

Your collective work will be the key stepping-stone towards the **2020 High Level Political Forum in New York, next July**. Your thoughts and recommendations will be crucial to **rethink governance with SDG16 at its center, especially in the difficult circumstances left by the COVID-19 pandemic**.

We will need to turn **challenges into opportunities** in order to **build back better**. Governance is central to this process, both in our collective response to COVID-19 and in working towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda. Collective actions for improved governance offer the most sustainable approach to **recovery, and to leave no one behind**.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this will be our **task for the next three days**.

I wish you all productive and fruitful discussions.

Thank you.