

ITALY

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. Italy hereby voluntarily *joins the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty* and states its dedication to pursue the Alliance's mission, objectives and principles, as *expressed* in the Global Alliance's Terms of Reference and Governance Framework, and to collaborate with other members to achieve lasting solutions to poverty and hunger worldwide, as expressed below.

Italy:

2. *Recognizes* that hunger and malnutrition are the perverse manifestations of persistent, structural poverty and inequality, and recognizes the need to end poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions and to fully and effectively implement the 2030 Agenda.
3. *Acknowledges* the alarming growth in the number of people facing food insecurity and poverty in recent years, noting that, despite all significant past and current efforts, the world is not on track to meet SDG 1 and 2 targets, inequality is also on the rise (SDG 10), and a significant increase in collective ambition, as well as improvement in collective alignment and coordination for the fight against hunger and poverty, is urgently needed.
4. To that effect, *endorses* the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and its mission to *support and accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty (SDGs 1 and 2) while reducing inequalities (SDG 10), contributing to revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17) and to the achievement of other interlinked SDGs, and championing sustainable, inclusive and just transitions..*
5. *Notes* that it is crucial for the world to unite behind large-scale, integrated approaches combining international, regional, national, and local levels, that recognize the interconnected nature of challenges and solutions to hunger and poverty and pair social protection with access to goods and services that can help the poor and vulnerable populations to overcome structural barriers and drive responsible investment in their productive capacity. These complementary services include but are not limited to interventions for poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, early childhood support, education and skills development, employment services, health and care services, as well as family farmers and smallholders' access to finance, extension services, research and/or agricultural inputs, in line with international commitments and obligations.
6. *Particularly recognizes* the high value and positive impact of quality implementation of national and local country-owned, inclusive policy instruments and programmes, focused on the poorest and most vulnerable, in the fields of poverty reduction, social protection, food security and nutrition, gender equality, decent work in the agri-food

sector, skills development, family farming and smallholder agriculture, food systems transformation, health and care services and resilience building.

7. Also *acknowledges* the Global Alliance’s reference basket of such policies as a collectively built, ongoing collection of examples with robust evidence to reduce hunger and poverty, and as a useful basis to guide joint action and increase alignment of the international community at country level. This acknowledgement is applicable to the policy basket approach as a general guide to action and does not imply endorsement of any specific policy instrument or programme contained in the basket.
8. Therefore, by joining the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, *commits* to do its best efforts, in its own field of action, and according to its own mandate, capacities, priorities, preferences, procedures, and legal arrangements and framework, to support the implementation of policy instruments and programmes at country level as appropriate, including by the promotion of shared learning and the mobilization of resources, public and private, at scale.

In particular:

Domestic policy implementation commitments

Italy acknowledges its role in the national-level implementation of policies and programmes against hunger and poverty, as well as for providing guidance and support to sub-national level policies and programmes.

Italy:

Commits to make its best efforts to implement, improve, and/or scale-up the implementation of policy instruments and programmes from among those contained in the Global Alliance’s policy basket in our national context. These policy instruments and programme suggestions would be adapted to the specific conditions, realities and opportunities presented in our country.

In particular, Italy commits to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of the following policy instruments or programmes, referenced in the Global Alliance’s reference basket:

1) Social card “**Dedicata a te**”: The 2023 budget law established a fund, of 500 million euros, for the purchase of basic food items, fuel or, alternatively, subscriptions to local public transport services. The social card “Dedicated to you” is a measure intended for families residing in Italy, in possession of the following requirements: registration of all members of the family unit in the municipal registry; Ordinary Equivalent Economic Situation Indicator in force not exceeding 15 thousand euros per year.

The measure consists of a financial contribution per family unit of 500 euros, paid through electronic payment cards, prepaid and rechargeable.

2) The **Milan school meal programme**: born to provide children with "*healthy, good, educational and fair*" meals, functions according to an in-house model providing 83,000 meals per day thanks to 2 centralised kitchens, 24 kitchen centers and over 79 internal kitchens. The adopted supplier **selection system** places high importance on

technical-qualitative standards leading to 26 food products provided by **short supply chains**. The city also supports **massive reduction of animal-based foods** and increased offer of new legumes recipes in the menus, the replacement of conventional products with **organic options** and the design of **educational materials** for improving awareness of children and teachers. In testimony of such a commitment, with the participation to the Cool Food Pledge of the World Resources Institute, Milan achieved a **reduction of 34% of food-related GHG emissions** from 2015 to 2023.

3) **Banco Alimentare** – Banco Alimentare is an organization that collects surplus food from businesses, supermarkets, and producers to distribute to charities and communities in need. This helps address **hunger and poverty** by reducing food waste, recovering unsold or surplus food. Banco Alimentare prevents usable products from going to waste and redistributes them to those in need.

It supports vulnerable communities, giving access to people in poverty to meals and groceries, improving their nutrition and reducing food insecurity. This has a ripple effect on the economy, in fact, it allows families to allocate more resources to other needs such as education and housing, leading to a better quality of life and greater social well-being.

Commits to observe good practices throughout the implementation of such policy instruments and programmes, including maintaining effective governance, seeking avenues for domestic resource mobilization for funding such programs and providing for appropriate monitoring and evaluation, with adaptation and learning based on social involvement and consultation, local stakeholder engagement, minimizing negative impacts and seeking to adequately manage policy trade-offs.

Policy cooperation and support commitments

Commits to, within its capacities, share its own learnings and otherwise provide appropriate help and support, within its means, to other Global Alliance member countries to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of policies and programmes referenced in the Alliance's basket.

Specifically, informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities related to lessons-learned and international cooperation in support of the Global Alliance's objectives:

1. **Apulia Food Systems Initiative:** Officially launched during the Borgo Egnazia G7 Leaders' Summit in June 2024, the Apulia Food Systems Initiative consists of a package of **seven deliverables** implemented in synergy with, among others, the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty. These deliverables are divided into three macro areas: the **climate-food-water nexus** and the **climate-finance nexus**, together with the US and French proposal to work on **malnutrition**, focusing on its impacts on maternal and child health.

2. **Global private-public fund on Coffee.** In the context of AFSI, Italy has proposed a Global private-public fund on coffee, conceived for projects aimed at strengthening the coffee supply chain and making it more resilient to the impact of climate change. The main

goal is to **coordinate existing efforts** and to **mobilise resources**, bringing economic and social benefits especially to **small producers**, which constitute the large majority of the coffee producers.

3. The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) and the school meals program of the Municipality of Milan. Launched in 2015 by the municipality of Milan, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) is the first and foremost network of cities focusing on urban food systems transformation. To date, it has been signed by more than 290 mayors around the world. Considering school meals programmes as a key urban policy, the Pact is serving as a **leading platform** for supporting cities in starting or improving their **school meals programmes**. To this scope, the MUFPP leads the **Cities Feeding the Future Initiative** of the School Meals Coalition, focusing on multiple activities, including **capacity building, promotion of advocacy actions, sharing of best practices and research development**. Only in 2024, the Milan Pact has organised four regional trainings in Europe, Africa and Asia Pacific, entirely centered on school meals programme at urban level.

4. World Farmers Market Coalition and the “Mediterranean and African Markets Initiative - Building Capacity for African and Mediterranean Farmers Markets as a resilient alternative to industrial market” project. Italian Development Cooperation supports, through the FAO, the World Farmers Market Coalition, a Rome-based non-profit, non-governmental organisation set up in 2021 on the initiative of Fondazione Campagna Amica/Coldiretti. The Coalition's goal is to establish a **global network of farmers' markets** to foster the sharing of **good practices and innovations, promote local food consumption and a sustainable development model** with people and communities at its centre, reducing the distance between rural areas and cities.

On the subject of proximity markets, the Italian Development Cooperation financed the **MAMI project** ('Mediterranean Africa Markets Initiative'), managed by the CIHEAM Bari and the Coalition. The main goal is the creation of farmers' markets with the direct involvement of farmers and new professional figures (market managers), in **five countries (Lebanon, Tunisia, Kenya, Egypt and Albania)**. A capacity-building model capable of responding to the needs of different territorial contexts, providing services of different kinds, from technical assistance to strengthen existing realities, to the development of new farmers' markets where none exist or where promising potential can be glimpsed.

5. High-Impact Project to Support the Coffee Supply Chain in Africa: Recognising the crucial role of coffee in promoting global sustainable development, and following the request for support from African coffee producing countries, the Italian government launched a **technical assistance initiative** to support the coffee supply chain in Africa. Italy is now working with national and international organisations and institutions such as UNIDO, ICO, the World Bank Group and the European Commission to structure a **comprehensive programme** involving all African coffee producing countries, with the aim of **accelerating the transition** of coffee supply chains on the continent towards greater resilience, circularity, equity and efficiency. In particular, this initiative aims to

ensure a strong involvement and impact on the countries involved, especially in terms of **maintaining the value generated locally** throughout the supply chain, and to and to support the work of local farmers, which represent the heart of the supply chain and are also the most impacted by the consequences of climate change.

6. The Italian Cooperation strategy on food systems transformation in Africa. TANIT, CAAM and AREA Projects. These three projects, included in the framework of the **Mattei Plan for Africa** and implemented in **Tunisia (TANIT), Mozambique (CAAM), Senegal and Ghana (AREA Projects)**, are representative of the Italian strategy on food security and sustainable food systems, focusing on **strengthening agri-food supply chains**, also through the development of innovative agricultural models. The main goal, implemented in full partnership with the host countries in line with the Mattei Plan approach, is to fight the **consequences of climate change and to decrease import dependency, fighting food insecurity** in the country. Other important pillars and components at the center of the projects are **education and job placement through knowledge sharing**. TANIT and AREA Projects are implemented in collaboration with the **Italian private sector**.

7. The Food for Gaza initiative. The Italian Government has promoted a joint effort with **the FAO, the WFP and the IFRC** to provide humanitarian aid in support of the civil population of the Gaza Strip affected by the war. Food for Gaza has become a **model of cooperation between the private and the public sectors**. By establishing a coordination mechanism with the UN Agencies working on food security, the main **Italian confederations of Agriculture**, and in coordination with Israel and the Palestinian Authority, Food for Gaza had a multiplier effect on the amount and quality of food aid provided to the Gaza Strip. This contributes to enhance the impact of the humanitarian action to counter food insecurity in Gaza.

Financial support commitments

Italy:

Commits to make its best efforts to improve the destination, allocation and alignment of the use of its resources, including through coordination and cooperation facilitated by the Global Alliance, to support member countries to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of select programmes or policy instruments in the Alliance's reference basket to drive the fight against hunger and poverty, in line with sustainable country-led financing and implementation strategies.

Informs that an estimated amount of USD 2.4 billion of financial resources under its guidance, management or control is currently being allocated in the reference timeframe of [2024-2026] to provide international development support applicable to the fight against hunger and poverty and advancing SDGs 1 and 2. The amount informed is the best possible estimation considering different applicable modalities, allocations and budget cycles, and is

subject to changing circumstances and budgets. It is not to be considered a pledge of new and additional resources.

In addition to the above, informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities in support of SDGs 1 and 2 and the Global Alliance's objectives:

*Commits to continue to support the **multilateral organizations** aimed at the transformation of agricultural and food systems, in particular the **Rome based UN Agencies** (FAO, IFAD and WFP) whose main objectives are related to the fight against hunger and poverty. This support presents two components: a **core financing** for the needs of the Agencies and a **voluntary financing** directed to support several projects in the food security sector.*

*Commits to continue supporting **IFAD**, which it proudly hosts, by building on its established record as one of the main contributors in consecutive replenishments up to **IFAD13**. This commitment aims to transform agricultural and food systems, advance rural development and play a decisive role in eradicating poverty and hunger especially in rural communities.*

*Declares that Italy will work, as a member country of various **MDBs and concessional development Funds**, as well as in relevant discussions at the G7, G20 and other fora, to prioritize the fight against poverty and hunger eradication in programmes and policies supported by MDBs, including through a significant expansion of lending volumes allowed by the implementation of the G20 Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF), proudly launched by the Italian G20 Presidency in 2021.*

Knowledge support commitments

Italy:

Commits to make its best efforts to co-create and provide technical assistance, capacity building and strengthening, training and/or knowledge-sharing on voluntary and mutually agreed terms in response to requests by Global Alliance member countries that choose to implement policy instruments and programmes in the Alliance's policy basket that are compatible with its areas of expertise.

Commits to make its best efforts to improve the alignment of its actions, including through the Global Alliance's coordination mechanisms, leveraging, and partnering with other actors to better support large scale, country-owned implementation of policies and programmes in the reference basket by Global Alliance member countries, aiming at enhancing country-level outcomes.

Commits to collaborate with other Alliance members to develop innovative solutions and share good practices in learning and knowledge exchange and dissemination on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, data collection and analysis, including by leveraging existing local, national, and international knowledge networks, coalitions, communities and other fora related to aspects relevant to the fight against hunger and poverty.

Informs its capacity and readiness to support Alliance member governments in implementing, improving or scaling-up the following policy instrument types, referenced in the Global Alliance's basket of policy instruments:

Italy intends to support the other Members of the Global Alliance thanks to its experience in the field of the School Meals Programs, sharing the best practices and knowledge matured in that field both at national and international level.

Informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities in support of the Global Alliance's objectives:

Italian partnership with the CIHEAM of Bari: Italy is carrying out numerous projects with the Institute of Bari, always including a training and knowledge-sharing component toward the actors in the target countries involved.

Italy is committed to continue contributing to **CGIAR Research Programs** through targeted projects which include CGIAR Research Centers whose actions are directed against hunger, poverty, and inequalities.

PRIMA (Partnership on Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area). The Euro-Mediterranean initiative PRIMA was promoted jointly by the European Commission and 20 countries from the Mediterranean, 12 EU members and 8 from North Africa and the Middle East.

PRIMA's budget is approximately 700 million euros for 10 years, half allocated by the program's partner states and the other half by the European Union, to achieve the highest standards of scientific knowledge and impact. Italy, the major funder of the initiative, has always had and still maintains a recognized leading role, by virtue of the constant support of the Italian Ministry of University and Research.

PRIMA has value in terms of scientific diplomacy, concretely supporting the free movement of researchers, scientific knowledge and technology between the two shores of the Mediterranean: it promotes concrete solutions for sustainable agri-food systems, with particular regard to the challenges linked to **food security**, tackling **hunger** and **food poverty** by protection of ecosystems and natural resources and by providing solutions for water scarcity.

The Initiative stands out for an advanced degree of integration between all participating countries and a strong strategic dimension, based on the principles of co-decision and co-financing to strengthen international cooperation in research and innovation. For the first time, in fact, countries that are not members of the Union contribute significant funding, comparable to that of the largest European countries. (www.prima-med.org)

Centro Nazionale AGRITECH (PNRR) – AGRITECH is an initiative funded by the Italian Minister of University and Research through the European Resilience and Recovery Fund, aiming at producing sufficient and safe food for a growing population without over-exploiting natural resources is one of the major problems that our society must face, finding

solutions which are sustainable in the long term and able to tackle global challenges as **hunger and poverty**. This is a global challenge, placed in a difficult context of unstable climate, increasing competition for land, water and energy, in an increasingly urbanized and globalized world. AGRITECH's three main goals are: 1) Ensuring nutritious, healthy and sustainable food for all 2) setting up full circularity of food and agricultural systems and 3) restoring diversity in our food, farm and social systems. (<https://agritechcenter.it>).

Italy is committed to support the evidenced-based research in order to generate a more **stable scientific and knowledge support** to the other members of the Global Alliance in implementing, improving and scaling-up policies from the G.A.'s basket.

General acknowledgments

Recognizes the possibility to, including through the mechanisms available to Global Alliance members, coordinate, partner with and/or seek support from the Global Alliance's other members, within their respective capacities, availability, and fields of activity, to carry out the present commitments with greater effectiveness.

While recognizing that the above commitments are voluntary and non-legally binding, being subject to and carried out under its own capacities, regulations, priorities, and modalities, as well as to the availability of appropriate resourcing, *strives* to seriously consider, as appropriate, and according to its own legal frameworks and governance process, to review its procedures and priorities as found necessary to better deliver on the present commitments, enhance synergies and joint efforts with other entities and initiatives, and improve outcomes on the collective fight against hunger and poverty.