

Joint Statement on VNR of Italy 2022- delivered by a representative of the European Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

In reference to the Italian VNR, it is noticeable that Participatory processes were established for the new Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Plan (PCSD) and the 2022 updated National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) but this must still be extended for an effective participation in current policy making.

We note that COVID 19 in Italy strongly hit the most fragile and vulnerable. Challenges however emerged well before: social inequalities were already on the rise, and previous obstacles inhibited a clean energy transition. The ongoing Ukraine War should not be an excuse to slow the ecological transition.

We believe that linkages between Agenda 2030 commitments and the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience (NPRR) should be reinforced. We noted a very low public scrutiny and participation in elaboration and implementation. Data is still very limited, thus hindering any civic monitoring attempt.

We are concerned that most of the current Italian ODA increase is ascribed to refugees' expenditures, and one-shot 'covid related' commitments. It is our view that Italy needs structural long-term commitment towards the internationally agreed NGI objective of 0.7%.

The NSSD should be better harmonized. The Partnership section articulates an artificial distinction between 'internal' and 'external' agenda, not offering much room for many aspects beyond an assessment of the Italian international development cooperation, such as trade and foreign investment, migration, security... All connections and spillovers should be considered and addressed in Policy Coherence terms.

Indicators and metrics are considered a technical domain excluding NSA/CSOs. How will they be given room for discussion on how relevant phenomena are observed and measured?

Real multilateralism is key to facing current challenges: not more weapons, but more cooperation! And, how much is Italy investing in multilateralism?

Unfortunately Italy has not supported the TRIPs waiver for COVID related supplies and refused to participate in the recent Vienna Conference on nuclear disarmament.