



Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Direzione Generale per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo
Directorate General for Development Cooperation

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Distinguished representatives of the G5 countries and Member States of the Sahel Alliance,

Italy is committed to the stability of the Sahel region, where both the fight against terrorism and sustainable development are our strategic priorities.

We are deeply concerned about the political and security deterioration in the Sahel region and we call for a definite return to constitutional rule in all countries of the area. We therefore welcome Mauritania's action to revitalize the G5 Sahel, as well as other regional initiatives aimed at curbing the jihadist phenomenon and fostering growth.

Since 2018, we have been actively participating in the Sahel Alliance, which plays a crucial role in coordinating cooperation strategies in the region. In fact, Sahel represents one of the top priorities for the Italian development cooperation.

Italy is well aware that the future of the Sahel lies in young generations and in women, who are agent for peace, change and stability. We therefore fully share the commitment to pursue our efforts for the creation of opportunities, through education and vocational training, for resilience to shocks and access to basic services.

Food security is another issue of fundamental importance in Africa and in the Sahel in particular. Making our food systems sustainable and resilient requires an urgent effort from the international community. This is why Italy will be hosting the second Food Systems Summit at the end of July.

More generally, our aim is to foster economic, social, environmental development in Africa. What we call the 'Mattei Plan' is about building equal and mutually beneficial partnerships with African countries and promoting human dignity and growth.

There will be no peace and stability in the Sahel without a profound and qualitative change in the living conditions of the Sahel populations. We therefore hope that the Sahel Alliance will continue contributing to this change together with the G5 partner countries.

I therefore take this opportunity to thank our Spanish colleagues for the achievements of the Alliance and wish every success to the German Presidency. Thank you for your attention.