



Ministero della Salute

**Partecipazione in VTC del Ministro della Salute, Prof. Orazio SCHILLACI,
al World Health Summit
(Berlino, 17 ottobre 2023 – h: 16:00-17:30)**

- Excellencies, distinguished guests and colleagues, ladies and gentleman, it's a great pleasure to address today such a high-profile audience in my quality of Italian Minister of Health.
- I thank the organisers of the World Health Summit and my colleague and friend Minister Lauterbach for inviting me.
- I would also like to greet all the other participants to the current session.
- When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, the global community had to face an unprecedented emergency that affected almost every aspect of our life. To respond to the pandemic and the consequent economic and social impacts, our governments had to act quickly and mobilize enormous resources.
- As devastating as it was, the pandemic shed the light on the areas more in need for urgent intervention to recover better and stronger and it has reminded us of the power of solidarity and collaboration, at national, regional and international level.
- Covid-19 taught us also that health systems at every level must be resilient.
- To achieve this goal, it is important to ensure adequate financing for enhanced PPR, especially in currently under financed areas. As affirmed in the 2021 Rome Declaration, for a strong Global Health Architecture, it is important to address the need for enhanced, streamlined, sustainable and predictable financing mechanisms as well as surge capacity, capable of rapidly mobilizing private and public funds and resources in a coordinated, transparent and collaborative manner and with robust accountability and oversight.
- In this regard, I welcome the efforts of the Pandemic Fund towards strengthening LMICs' capacity to mitigate the risks of future global health threats. As my country had championed its creation, I would like to stress the importance of securing new donors for the Pandemic Fund and the need of integrating its operations within the Global Health Architecture. The Fund is a transparent, powerful tool, managed not only for but also by the full spectrum of stakeholders and partners. Its first call for proposals alone has mobilised more than USD2.4 billion to strengthen surveillance,

laboratory and workforce capacity]in 37 low and middle income economies. But this is just the beginning.

- At a national level, Italy promoted a robust COVID-19 response based on the strong coordination of the Health and Finance Ministries. As this coordination proved to be key, during our G20 Presidency, Italy fostered the establishment of the G20 Joint Finance-Health Task Force to advance the international agenda on PPR financing, which led to the launch of the Pandemic Fund, under the Indonesian G20 Presidency. This year, the Task Force, in collaboration with the WHO, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the International Monetary Fund, developed a set of strategic analyses for better understanding Health, Social, and Economic Vulnerabilities from Pandemics and exploring pandemic Response Financing options and gaps.
- Strengthening international coordination is an essential aspect to fight against the pandemic, we have to continue working on the global health architecture, keeping the WHO at its centre.
- In particular, we should keep supporting the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to conclude the negotiations on a legally binding WHO agreement on pandemic PPR by May 2024 and the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations, prioritizing the need for equity and recognizing that an inclusive process with all WHO Member States and civil society is key for its implementation.
- The recent pandemic has also shown all of us the need to design a better approach to enhance equity and rapid access to medical countermeasures and make the best from the lessons learned from the COVID-19 Tools Accelerator. The ACT-Accelerator has been an unprecedented multistakeholder collaboration to develop and provide equitable access to life-saving COVID-19 tools.
- Moving forward, it is clear the world needs a dedicated, sustainably financed medical countermeasures platform anchored in the principles of speed and equity.
- Finally, COVID-19 has also been a wake-up call on the links of human, animal and environmental health. Italy will continue to support these crucial topics at international level, including in our next year G7 Health Agenda.
- In this regard our priorities, in continuity with Japan Presidency, will revolve around the following pillars:
- The **first one**, will focus on Strengthening the Global Health Architecture and the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to future pandemics, with a particular attention to human resources and to equity and universality of access to care;

- The **second Pillar** will focus on Long life prevention for healthy and active aging through prevention strategies and promotion of healthy and correct lifestyles throughout all the course of life starting from the prenatal phase;
- The **third Pillar** will focus on the One Health approach model, including the crucial issue of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and the nexus between Environment and Health, with regard to the co-benefits resulting from the interconnection between health prevention and protection policies and those regarding environmental protection and sustainability.
- Italy is committed to exploit synergies with all relevant international networks or initiatives, starting with the G20 Brazilian Presidency, in order to reach common goals during our imminent G7 presidency.
- I look forward to the progress we can achieve together in the fundamental field of global health and I wish all the success to the conclusion of the 2023 edition of the World Health Summit.
- Thank you again very much for the invitation.