

## Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to promote sustainable growth in Africa.

On 14 June 2021, G7 countries, along with multilateral partners, announced an USD80 billion commitment to invest in the private sector across Africa.<sup>1</sup> These investments will collectively provide clean, reliable power to millions of people, give underserved markets better access to finance and help create jobs and reduce poverty.<sup>2</sup> Italy, along with the other G7 countries, have supported this initiative.<sup>3</sup>

On 24 September 2021, Prime Minister, Mario Draghi, allocated USD33 billion to help African countries overcome the effects of the pandemic.<sup>4</sup> The funding facilitates comprehensive and sustainable debt restructuring for countries with an excessive level of debt.

On 5 October 2021, the closing workshop of the Pilot Initiative in Egypt took place.<sup>5</sup> The opening session emphasized the continued support provided by the Italian Cooperation to Egypt towards building a more inclusive and gender-responsive society and promoting gender equality and women's economic and social empowerment, a commitment it will strengthen in the coming years.

On 11 October 2021, The Embassy of Italy in Dakar announced the selection of young people from West Africa who will have the opportunity to continue their higher education in Italy in the 2021/2022 academic year.<sup>6</sup> This is within the framework of the bilateral cultural and scientific cooperation initiative stemming from the commitment of the Italian diplomatic system to further relations with Senegal and Mali.

On 11 November 2021, The Italian Embassy in Kampala supported the "Start-up Africa Road Trip" training project, aimed at 20 local start-ups, mainly in Uganda, but also open to participants from other East African Countries.<sup>7</sup> The undertakings presented aimed to tackle the most felt problems in the country, from alternative uses of urban waste to sustainable mobility and integration of the more vulnerable segments of the production fabric to extending access to basic medical care.

On 15 November 2021, The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Luigi Di Maio, held telephone talks with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Demeke Mekonnen. Italy reiterated its support for the mediation efforts of the African

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<sup>1</sup> G7 partners to invest over \$80 billion in Africa's private sector, United Kingdom Government (London) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 14 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/g7-partners-to-invest-over-80-billion-in-africas-private-sector>

<sup>2</sup> G7 partners to invest over \$80 billion in Africa's private sector, United Kingdom Government (London) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 14 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/g7-partners-to-invest-over-80-billion-in-africas-private-sector>

<sup>3</sup> G7 partners to invest over \$80 billion in Africa's private sector, United Kingdom Government (London) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 14 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/g7-partners-to-invest-over-80-billion-in-africas-private-sector>

<sup>4</sup> Prime Minister Draghi's speech at the 76<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 24 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 December 2021. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/general-debate-76th-session-un-general-assembly/17994>

<sup>5</sup> Closing Workshop Pilot Initiative in Egypt Gemaisa 2 Project, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 5 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 14 December 2021. <https://www.gemaisa.net/closing-workshop-pilot-initiative-in-egypt-gemaisa-2-project/>

<sup>6</sup> Senegal: training programmes in Italy for African Students, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 11 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 14 December 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2021/10/senegal-formazione-in-italia-per-studenti-africani-2/](https://www.esteri.it/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2021/10/senegal-formazione-in-italia-per-studenti-africani-2/)

<sup>7</sup> "Start-up Africa Road Trip" in Kampala- training for 20 start-ups, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 11 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 14 December 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2021/11/a-kampala-startup-africa-roadtrip-formazione-per-20-start-up/](https://www.esteri.it/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2021/11/a-kampala-startup-africa-roadtrip-formazione-per-20-start-up/)

Union's High Representative for the Horn of Africa, the EU Special Representative and the US Special Envoy for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the opening of a political dialogue.<sup>8</sup>

On 19 November 2021, the Italian Federal Government ratified and executed an agreement between the government of the Italian Republic and the government of Tunisia to develop infrastructure for electricity transmission aimed at maximizing energy exchanges between Europe and North Africa.<sup>9</sup> The agreement was first put forward in Tunis on 30 April 2019.

On 30 November 2021, two events took place in Bamako, Mali with the goal of strengthening Italy-Mali relations.<sup>10</sup> Italian entrepreneurs inaugurated the headquarters of a new Italian-Malian Business Association. Later that evening, 50 Italian and Malian entrepreneurs got together to promote economic cooperation between the two countries. These events reiterated Italy's commitment to developing multi-sectoral relations with Mali, in particular the development of bilateral trade and the special attention to supporting female entrepreneurs.

On 22 December 2021, Minister Di Maio held talks with the Somali Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Abdisaid Muse Ali. He confirmed Italy's traditional commitment to security in Somalia and called for a peaceful continuation of the electoral process, highlighting Italian and European expectations for its conclusion. The Foreign Minister highlighted the numerous initiatives launched by Italy in Somalia, particularly in the fields of rural development, infrastructure and food security. Alongside this commitment, there is also the traditional support to the Somali National University, considering the importance Italy attaches to education.<sup>11</sup>

On 16 February 2022, Prime Minister Mario Draghi attended the Consultations and commitment prospects for the Sahel working dinner at the Élysée Palace in Paris. During the dinner on the eve of the European Union – African Union Summit, Sahelian and neighboring countries as well as international partners, met to discuss the situation in the Sahel. They pledged to continue to help the people of Mali over the long term to face all challenges posed by the activity of armed terrorist groups in the Sahel.<sup>12</sup>

On 9 March 2022, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marina Sereni attended the third ministerial meeting of the International Coalition for the Sahel. The Sahel Coalition unites more than 60 Countries committed to the stabilization of the Sahel region which represents the southern border of the enlarged Mediterranean region. Sereni confirmed Italy's commitment to foster the stability of the Sahel and to protect the civilian populations, in coordination with the coalition partners, in combating terrorism, providing sustainable development aid and fighting the effects of climate change.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Telephone conversation between Minister Luigi Di Maio and his Ethiopian counterpart, Demeke Mekonnen Hassen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 15 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 March 2022. [https://www.esteri.it/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/11/colloquio-telefonico-del-ministro-luigi-di-maio-con-lomologo-etiope-demeke-mekonnen/](https://www.esteri.it/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/11/colloquio-telefonico-del-ministro-luigi-di-maio-con-lomologo-etiope-demeke-mekonnen/)

<sup>9</sup> Law 11/19/2021, N.218, Presidency of the Republic (Rome) 19 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 14 December 2021. <https://www.quirinale.it/elementi/61152>

<sup>10</sup> Bamako: inauguration of the new Italy-Mali Business Association, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 14 December 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2021/12/bamako-inaugurazione-della-nuova-associazione-italo-maliana-daffari/](https://www.esteri.it/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2021/12/bamako-inaugurazione-della-nuova-associazione-italo-maliana-daffari/)

<sup>11</sup> Foreign Ministry Note – Minister Di Maio meets the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia, Abdisaid Muse Ali, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 22 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 March 2022. [https://www.esteri.it/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/12/nota-farnesina-incontro-del-ministro-di-maio-con-il-ministro-degli-affari-esteri-e-della-cooperazione-internazionale-somalo-abdisaid-muse-ali/](https://www.esteri.it/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/12/nota-farnesina-incontro-del-ministro-di-maio-con-il-ministro-degli-affari-esteri-e-della-cooperazione-internazionale-somalo-abdisaid-muse-ali/)

<sup>12</sup> Joint declaration on the fight against the terrorist threat and the support to peace and security in the Sahel and West Africa, Presidency of France (Paris) 17 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 March 2022. <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2022/02/17/joint-declaration-on-the-fight-against-the-terrorist-threat>

<sup>13</sup> Sahel Coalition, Sereni attends the third ministerial meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 March 2022.

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to promote sustainable growth in Africa. Italy has financed initiatives that aim to create educational opportunities, stimulate job growth, preserve peace, security and stability, support female entrepreneurship, and green energy projects in Africa. These actions support the African Union Agenda 2063 in the areas of environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities, well-educated citizens and skills revolution and full gender equality in all spheres of life.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

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