

Italian Pledge Announcement on the occasion of the GPE Financing Conference – Dakar
February 2, 2018

- *Honourable Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of Italy I wish to thank the President of Senegal and the President of France for hosting GPE's Financing Conference here in Dakar.*
 - *Italy is strongly convinced that Education is a real sustainable development multiplier for every society and every sector: this is why Education has always been one of the top priorities of the Italian Development Cooperation. Our societies will never become more stable, peaceful, prosperous and equal without investing in and supporting quality education at all levels and for all. As we heard yesterday and today, Education is at the very core of each development process and very much at the heart of the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*
 - *Education is a moral, social and economic imperative and in order to leave no one behind, we need to prioritize education for those affected by protracted crisis, girls, boys, young refugees, people with disability and the most marginalized and excluded.*
 - *These are the reasons why fifteen years ago we contributed to the creation of the Education for all Initiative in the framework of the G8 and these are the reasons why last year, on the occasion of the 2017 Italian G7 Presidency, we put again Education among our priorities. The G7 Summit in Taormina emphasized Education's crucial role in the Leaders final Communiqué and then produced the first thematic G7 Progress Report on this theme: the "Taormina Progress Report on Education, investing on education for mutual prosperity, peace and development", which highlights the relevance of continuing to invest in GPE in order to achieve the SDG 4 at global level.*
 - *Italy is more than ever committed to do its part. We are increasing our bilateral commitment in Education as well as our multilateral support and GPE is a qualitatively important part of our strategy and of the investment we are making.*
 - *Italy recognizes the improvement made by the Partnership in these years and the impressive results achieved in order to ensure quality of education for millions of children all over the world, especially those in the most fragile and vulnerable contexts. Despite all our efforts, there is still so much to be done and this is why Italy decided to increase its political and financial support to the Global Partnership for Education.*
 - *On the occasion of this Financing Conference, I wish to announce that we will almost triple our latest commitment and pledge to contribute to the Global Partnership for Education with 12 million euro for the next three years. This contribution represents the guaranteed floor for a 4-million-per-year contribution which, as we have done many times in the past, we hope we will be able to increase on yearly basis.*
 - *As our Global Champion and Messenger of Peace, Malala said "A child, a teacher, a book and a pen can change the world" , let us ensure that each child has its chance to change the world.*
- Thank you.*