

Rome Centre for Sustainable Development

1. Vision Statement

Introduction

The Communique from the G7 Environment Ministers' Summit in Bologna (June 2017) welcomed the establishment of an Africa Centre for Climate and Sustainable Development (ACSD) in Rome. This Centre was inaugurated in Rome on 28 January 2019 pursuant to an agreement between the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In the time from the G7 meeting until the present, the initial concept for the ACSD has evolved and there is strong potential for it to play an expanded and essential role in the development and implementation of a diverse and expanding programme of cooperation between IMELS and UNDP.

By agreement of the two parties, the time has come to review and adjust the mandate of the Centre, enabling it to fulfil its optimal role in the context of IMELS-UNDP cooperation. The Vision that follows aims to capture the purpose and functioning of the relaunched Centre, taking into account lessons learned in the past two years. It will be completed by three further documents:

- A strategy for the Centre's next three years (2021-23)
- A detailed programmatic workplan for 2021
- A roadmap setting out transitional steps and decisions needed

Vision

The Rome Centre for Sustainable Development (henceforth Centre) represents an evolution from the initial concept for the ACSD. The Centre has as its central purpose to facilitate, support and catalyze a growing range of activities within the IMELS-UNDP partnership in the broad field of international environmental cooperation. This will include both actions implemented by UNDP and funded by IMELS, and the development of broader partnerships involving other international and Italian players, including the private sector.

The Centre shall have five broad functions:

- To serve as a facilitator and liaison point between IMELS and UNDP in respect of the full range of their cooperative activities, leveraging UNDP's country presence to scale solutions and deliver impact.
- To leverage wider partnerships with key actors on the international sustainable development agenda, including both international organizations and programmes and countries beyond the G7, starting with G20 countries.
- To serve as a centre for cooperation among Italian specialized institutions and research centres and those in other parts of the world to build capacities and generate action in support of the Centre's thematic areas.
- To provide input to UNDP's global policy development and deployment capacity.
- To serve as a source of knowledge, expertise and support services in respect of specific cooperative activities, including the use of the Centre's facilities to host project-related events.

The Centre's geographical scope embraces all areas of the globe in which UNDP is active and present, with particular focus on areas of priority to IMELS. Its thematic scope is co-equal with that of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, with emphasis on the SDGs which, within the integrated context of the agenda, target the environment. Within this expanded geographical and thematic scope, the Centre will be guided by the fundamental policy and strategic priorities of both IMELS and UNDP.

The outcome of the Centre's work shall be to advance the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs by enhancing the coordination and targeting of Italy's international cooperation activities on sustainable development in harmony with the global, regional and country activities of UNDP. In pursuing this aim, the Centre shall, to the extent possible, encourage and benefit from partnerships with international organizations, private sector entities, academic institutions, and civil society organizations both in Italy and elsewhere. It will also contribute to the involvement of the parties in key global and regional processes that contribute to the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

In fulfilling these roles, the Centre shall add value to the implementation of Agenda 2030 by strengthening strategic policy, knowledge, research and partnerships that advance SDG implementation in respect of the critical environmental challenges of climate change, biodiversity, food and water insecurity.

Once fully operational, the Centre will seek to expand its scope by convening other G7 countries and beyond in the search for both efficiency and effectiveness in achieving the shared aim of implementing the SDGs, through the deployment of global policy solutions executed through UNDP's country presence.