



*Al Ministro
dell'Università e della Ricerca*

**6° Forum Mondiale sulle Frane
Firenze, 14 novembre 2023
Sessione di apertura
Messaggio del Ministro Sen. Anna Maria Bernini**

Honorable authorities, esteemed academic community, kind participants and international guests,

First of all, I would like to thank Professor Nicola Casagli for his gentle invitation to this event, which unfortunately I was unable to attend, but which I wanted to reciprocate by sending you this message.

I greet the Rector of the University of Florence, Professor Alessandra Petrucci, and all the important representatives of the vast world of international organizations who have gathered in Florence.

My most heartfelt greetings and thoughts go to the territories that in these weeks are fighting against the disastrous effects of extreme climatic phenomena, and to all the institutions, associations and citizens who are currently at work.

The international scientific community has always played an important role in alerting, monitoring and concretely resolving serious threats to our societies. Including the way we relate to the territory.

I therefore want to convey to you my pride, as Minister of Universities and Research, to see such a large and authoritative international community, on such highly topical issues.

The Italian research system is gearing up for the challenges of the future.

First of all, thanks to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Italy is investing in its research infrastructures and dedicated research institutions, both to mitigate natural hazards and to make the Italian system more attractive.

Moreover, we consider the relationship with the international dimension a central factor of progress.



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I refer, for example, to the European supercomputer Leonardo, the fourth most powerful in the world, operated by the CINECA consortium, and which I had the honour of inaugurating a year ago at the Bologna Technopole.

The potential of ever greater computing power opens up new frontiers for scientific research, especially for a deeper understanding of the effects of climate change.

For this reason, I remember with great pleasure my meeting with the Rector of the United Nations University, Professor Tshilidzi Marwala, on the occasion of the launch of the project of the new institute of the United Nations University that will be built at the Bologna Technopole, for advanced studies on climate change, based on big data and artificial intelligence.

Forecasting models, artificial intelligence applications and digital twin of territories at risk are just some of the possible answers that infrastructures and research communities with large computational capacities can offer.

This very topic will be one of the thematic pillars of the Ministry of Universities and Research in the context of the Italian Presidency of the G7 in 2024.

It is an opportunity that we consider unique to bring to the attention of some of our most important international partners issues that are now of vital importance, and not only for a country with major hydrogeological fragilities like Italy.

Another pillar of the Italian Presidency's scientific chapter will be the importance of research infrastructures as a central element of international cooperation, both at diplomatic and academic level.

The third point of Italian scientific diplomacy that I am proud to be able to communicate to an international audience as broad as yours is the increasingly active involvement of our important African partners.

The Italian government's Mattei Plan for Africa also expresses the will to strengthen the scientific cooperation tools that Italian universities, research organisations and private entities have already created.

I think that the structuring of an effective international agenda and a deep awareness of the value of research are fundamental preconditions for the action of governments that want to be real players in the future.



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As the Ministry of Universities and Research, we want to play our part. Thank you for your effort.