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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR STEFANO BALDI,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE OSCE, AT THE  
1316th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 May 2021

**Global Health Summit and Rome Declaration adopted by the leaders  
of the G20 and other States**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

On 21 May, the Global Health Summit, a special event organized by the Italian G20 Presidency in collaboration with the European Commission, took place in Rome and online. The work involved 24 countries, 21 Heads of State or Government and 12 international organizations. The breadth and variety of participants, more comprehensive and numerous than at the G20, made the Global Health Summit a particularly important event in the multilateral context, enabling Italy and Europe to exercise leadership on global health issues at this critical stage.

For the first time since the outbreak of the pandemic, the Summit brought together – albeit virtually – the world’s key players on the issues of combating COVID-19, protecting global health and preventing health crises. The live streaming of the event sent a clear and visible political signal to world public opinion about the commitment of the international community.

The discussion among the leaders produced some very important political and practical results. Amongst them, I should like to mention the reaffirmation of the key role of international co-operation and solidarity among countries in overcoming the current crisis.

The countries and organizations represented adopted the Rome Declaration, structured around a Preamble and a set of 16 principles which, although essentially political in nature and scope, lay the foundations for future concrete action by the various players – public and private, the scientific world and civil society – in promoting global health and preventing potential new world health crises. The principles call in particular for enhancing the global health architecture, fostering health-conscious economic and social policies, increasing vaccine production capacity, investing in the training of health personnel and the development of research centres and early warning systems, and promoting new financial instruments to support investment in global health.

The Declaration, which was the product of several challenging negotiating sessions, is a fruitful synthesis of the different interests and positions represented by the countries participating in the

negotiations. As emphasized by many of the leaders who spoke, it will be an important milestone towards ever closer and more tangible co-operation to prevent and effectively address pandemics.

We believe that this outcome of the Global Health Summit demonstrates once again that a multilateral approach is still vital today and capable of producing substantial results, both on controversial issues and on topics where it is easier to find a convergence of views. This is the very essence of multilateralism, to which my country is fully committed: finding joint solutions to joint problems through dialogue that takes account at all times of the need for mutual understanding and a willingness to compromise.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.