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Resilient accountability systems and institutions in the aftermath of COVID-19

Coronavirus is an unprecedented public health emergency affecting all developed and developing countries.

Governments around the world have promptly responded to the emergency and adopted measures to mitigate the economic and social consequences of the pandemic. Nevertheless, Countries' economy has been seriously impacted.

Supreme Audit Institutions have immediately reacted to cope with the crisis and supported the Governments response mechanisms through maintaining public financial management discipline and ensuring transparency, accountability and high standards of integrity.

It is clear that reactive institutions make the difference in the context of a global pandemic.

At present, Countries are required to face not only the health crisis but also the long-term economic effects and in an equitable, inclusive and sustainable way.

Plans for how to restart the economy should be a new beginning.

It is now time to get to work, to make the world greener, more digital and more resilient.

Supreme Audit Institutions have a paramount role to play in this new process.

Italy submitted its multi-year National Recovery and Resilience Plan to the European Commission at the end of April. It has been approved on June, 22. Extensive spending under the Plan is to be implemented alongside structural reforms in key areas to improve the efficiency of the public and private sectors. Accordingly, the Recovery and Resilience Plan introduces considerable reforms to public administrations, labour market laws and programmes, justice, policies for next generation, digital transformation, green transition and fiscal systems. Therefore, the

impact of government actions on the economy requires a control framework that is tailored and proportionate to its unique nature.

The implementation of programmes and investments will be assigned to different bodies and operative structures at central and local level. In this regard, the Italian Supreme Audit Institution will ensure a constant monitoring of the Plan activities, with related accountability, the most efficient use of the huge amount of resources allocated to the new programming and a fundamental contribution to preventing and combating corruption, fraud, conflicts of interest, etc.

The effectiveness of the economic support and recovery measures financed through the national budget and using European Union funds, including the interventions set out in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, would raise the level of Gross Domestic Product by 4.5 percent in 2021 as whole. Pre-pandemic levels of economic activity will likely be regained by the end of next year.

Furthermore, the macroeconomic projections present a positive scenario: The Gross Domestic Product would continue to grow at a high rate in the next three years (+4.8 percent in 2022, +2.6 percent in 2023 +1.8 per cent in 2024 in the programmatic framework) confirming a long-term growth.

To conclude, let me say, that two different phases of institutional resilience must be considered: during and after the pandemic at the health, social and economic level. Reactive resilience corresponds to actions that can be used to mitigate the impact of a shock.

Recovery resilience includes actions that allow a system to recover from a shock.

We are, now, in the second phase and we are restoring, recovering and transforming after the emergency.