
# Government guidelines on space and aerospace

# *Presidency of the Council of Ministers*

*I wish to share the document below, that is, the 'Government Guidelines on Space and Aerospace', charting the course for Italy's future in a strategic and vital sector. Space is not just a frontier for scientific exploration, but a fundamental pillar of national security, economic growth, and technological progress.*

*The Interministerial Committee for Space and Aerospace Research (COMINT) has worked hard to outline a strategy that will strengthen Italy's sovereignty in Space and enhance Italian excellence. In a rapidly changing world, it is essential for Italy to be at the forefront, ready to seize any opportunity and meet the challenges arising from this domain.*

*The Government's Guidelines focus on four main aspects:*

***The expansion of knowledge and benefits for society** – We will invest in scientific research and innovation, promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. We intend to educate the new generations, the Youth, allowing them to play a leading role in the Space Economy, thus contributing to everyone's progress and wellbeing.*

***The growth and competitiveness of the national industrial ecosystem** – We will support Italian businesses – including large companies, SMEs, and start-ups – by encouraging innovation and facilitating access to international markets. Through targeted industrial policies, we are strengthening Italy's positioning as a global leader in the Space field.*

***Defining an effective regulatory environment** – We are updating the national regulatory framework, through the so-called 'Space Law' (Legge Spazio) and implementing administrative procedures to ensure suitable governance for the challenges we are facing. We will protect national interests and promote the sustainability of Space activities.*

***Identifying priority areas for the development of international collaboration in the Space sector,** with special focus on Africa and South America.*

*We firmly believe in the values of freedom, democracy, and progress. This document reflects such values, with a view to ensuring security and prosperity for all citizens.*

*I would like to express my gratitude to the Ministers who have contributed to this important milestone and encourage institutions, businesses, and research centers to implement these Guidelines. The path we have taken is ambitious, and we are working to turn these Guidelines into actions. Together, we can strengthen Italy's role on the international stage and build a better future for present and future generations.*

**The President of the Council of Ministers**

*Giorgia Meloni*

## 1. The Value of Space for Society

In recent decades, the value of space to society has increased significantly, showing a remarkable evolution especially in terms of space activities and services. Since the 1960s, space activities have fostered the development of advanced technologies and scientific progress, thus enriching human knowledge and making services and applications available that are fundamental to everyday life. Communications, geolocalisation, environmental and territorial monitoring, as well as support to defence and civil protection systems, are just a few examples of how space activities have improved life on Earth. In addition, space exploration – which is an inexhaustible source of inspiration and innovation – opens up new frontiers, including the use of microgravity and the exploitation of extra-terrestrial resources, thus boosting critical sectors such as pharmaceutical and biotechnological research.

Such major development has contributed to create an expanding space economy, in which Italy plays a leading role, which should be strengthened by placing special focus on greater strategic independence and on making the value chain more robust. This shows not only the strategic importance of space activities for modern society, but also Italy's fundamental contribution to this advanced sector.

Given the significant role played by space activities in innovation and socio-economic development, Italy has intensified its commitment to the space sector, investing nearly €10 billion over the past five years. Such investment has fuelled the development of satellites, launchers and space stations, that is, key infrastructure to remain competitive on a global scale. The aforesaid technologies are now fully integrated with advanced sectors such as cyber, artificial intelligence and cloud computing. Just as in the 19th Century it was important to control the seas, in the 21st Century controlling space in the is crucial for national sovereignty, international security, economic competitiveness and progress in scientific research.

## 2. The Strategic Importance of Space to Meet the Global Challenges of the 21st Century.

In this period of remarkable change, space becomes a crucial dimension, playing a central role in the efforts to cope with contemporary challenges. Sustainable resource management – e.g. by cleaning orbits of debris – becomes an additional requirement. The ability to address complex social phenomena such as pandemics and migration, protecting strategic infrastructure from both terrestrial and space-based threats and hazards, consolidating agri-food security, and preventing natural disasters through territorial monitoring, underlines the strategic importance of space. Furthermore, space exploration and colonisation aiming at utilising space resources open up new frontiers for mankind.

The current global context offers unprecedented opportunities for the economic growth of the space sector in the decades to come. Such development is fuelled by technological advances that facilitate the emergence of new entrepreneurial entities, including numerous start-ups, alongside traditional industrial players and public institutions. The entry of private capital and the increase in the strategic importance of space, including for security and defence, as well as new awareness of citizens of the impact of space activities, further expand the sector's prospects. Scientific research and technological developments remain

essential, as they enable knowledge and innovation advances required to address global challenges, including a better understanding of the Universe and climate change, which have a direct impact on everyday life.

Therefore, the role of the Government, of governmental institutions and of the Italian Space Agency (ASI) in supporting the development and consistent implementation of a national space strategy, is of paramount importance. Such institutional commitment aims at allowing Italy to maintain its leading position in the future competitive space scenario, promoting optimal conditions for all national stakeholders, including by drawing up governmental guidelines and strategic documents, as provided for by national legislation.

As part of its efforts to ensure technological sovereignty in the space sector, Europe faces significant challenges in competing with the advanced capabilities of nations such as the US, China, Russia, India, and Japan. They are all also increasing their military space investments. This is why Italy should aim at gaining ever stronger strategic independence, with a view to significantly contributing to Europe's technological sovereignty.

Space is a key industrial sector – Italy is one of the world's leading countries in space manufacturing and services.

Space also serves as an instrument of foreign policy through space diplomacy.

In 2022, the Parliamentary Committee for the Security of the Republic (COPASIR) presented a report on Space, defining it as a theatre of global competition in the scientific, economic and military fields. Therefore, space is a challenge that Italy must address, first and foremost, by strengthening sector governance.

### 3. Defence and Security Culture as a Driver for Development

Defence and security culture is a crucial development factor all fields, including the Space Economy. In a context where the security and protection of space infrastructure are essential, the contribution of Defence and of the Security Intelligence Bodies referred to in Articles 4, 6 and 7 of Law no. 124 of 3 August 2007 remains essential. In the current geopolitical landscape, characterised by bigger risks and intentional threats, the need arises to adopt a structured approach to the development of the Space sector. This entails adopting a security strategy envisaging the implementation of protection measures throughout the entire life cycle of space programmes, by placing special focus on critical national assets and ensuring an adequate level know-how safeguard, by protecting classified and sensitive information produced by the national industrial and technological actors, also with a view to consolidating the competitiveness of the Country as a whole.

To effectively face challenges in a competitive environment, it is crucial that national investments made in the framework of long-term strategies. Such strategies should aim at preserving Italy's and Europe's technological sovereignty, strengthening Italy's negotiating and competitive position in the international arena, and meeting the needs of the main institutional users of space services. A key element to be considered from the outset is the resilience of space systems, which must be commensurate with the relevance of the infrastructure for national needs. This includes the ability to provide secure access to Space, to assess the 'Space scenario (Space Situational Awareness - SSA), identify potential threats, attribute hostile acts in space and to conduct reactive and timely operations to protect and defend national infrastructure and interests. In short, it is necessary to develop and acquire

the relevant capabilities to promote Space Traffic Management (STM) development, based on the most effective international cooperation mechanisms and, at the same time, the acquisition of robust military Space Domain Awareness capabilities.

The operational management of satellite infrastructure must therefore ensure both of Safety and Security vis-à-vis natural, accidental, and intentional risks. This is also achieved by independently acquiring space intelligence, which serves to deter and counter potential hostile actions based on a deterrence and defence strategy (Deter & Defend).

Within NATO, since the adoption of the Space Policy, space has been identified as the Alliance's fifth operational domain (together with land, sea, air, cyber).

According to the Council Conclusions on the EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence, adopted on November 13th, 2023, Space is a crucial domain for the security and defence of EU Member States. It is therefore vital to ensure the resilience of both public and private national space assets, as well as and protection against accidental and deliberate threats that could jeopardise space infrastructures. An integrated approach combining the civil and military dimensions is also promoted, including the definition of security requirements for critical space systems in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence and the Security Intelligence Bodies referred to in Articles 4, 6 and 7 of Law No 124 of 3 August 2007.

## 4. Space Policy Priorities

Space policy priorities can be grouped into three main areas of intervention.

The first macro-area includes the deepening of knowledge and the increase of opportunities and benefits for society. To pursue such goals, it is necessary to develop and disseminate technologies and knowledge derived from space activities, in order to improve the quality of life and stimulate innovation in various areas.

The second area covers the growth and competitiveness of the space-related industrial ecosystem. This includes supporting existing companies and encouraging the emergence of new ones, with a view to strengthening the international positioning of the national space industry and promoting its long-term sustainability.

Relations with Regions and Autonomous Provinces

The complementarity and synergy of the support policies implemented at different institutional levels should be placed major focus on, in particular with a synergetic strategic vision bringing together the best specialisations, also acting as a stimulus where there is room for growth that is not covered in terms of excellence, or by cross-fertilising the most advanced resources that are not yet engaged in space-related challenges as they mostly focus on their sectors of origin.

In several regions, ecosystems have developed including large enterprises and SMEs, incubators, accelerators and start-ups, research institutions, university and higher education curricula focusing exclusively and/or significantly on the various areas of interest that are relevant to pursue the objectives described in this document.

The Regions – and those that have included Space in their Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) in particular – directly support this area of activity with its various components or sectors. They are anyway crucial for the articulated and qualified development of the relevant value

chains, with considerable resources that are mainly linked to the management of European structural funds. Hence, have a comprehensive overview of the presence on their territories.

We therefore stress the importance of strengthening – in the relevant institutions – the communication and sharing of national objectives and strategic choices, possibly also with dedicated in-depth studies depending on their actual potential, in order to enhance local specificities, in the framework of vertical subsidiarity, thus strengthening the whole Country.

Lastly, the third macro-area includes the definition of a clear and functional regulatory and governance framework. This priority addresses the need to establish rules, regulations, and governance mechanisms that can effectively guide the development of the Space sector, while ensuring compliance with ethical and legal principles, as well as security and sustainability of space activities.

Strengthening Earth Observation leadership and Italy's strategic positioning in critical areas such as Space Access, Telecommunications and Navigation, Space Awareness, and Human and Robotic Exploration. This transition is essential to widen knowledge and improve the quality of life through space technologies. Strengthening benefits for the competitiveness and sustainability of the Country's Space Industry in international relations, ensuring that international alliances are beneficial to and aligned with national objectives.

Establish a sovereign wealth fund for dual applications to invest in both domestic and international strategic enterprises. This will help to strengthen the Country's position in the Space industry and to ensure effective and sustainable governance of space activities, by keeping a keen eye on ethical and legal implications.

### 5. Supporting Scientific and Industrial Research and Multiplying the Skills Needed by the Space Economy

Supporting scientific and industrial research, also expanding the skills needed for the space economy are crucial actions for knowledge acquisition, innovation, and economic growth. Research, both basic and applied, carried out by universities, research institutions, and private companies, is key to explore new scientific and technological horizons. Space offers unique opportunities to acquire knowledge that is inaccessible from the Earth, thus contributing significantly to science, medicine, to the development of new materials and the management of natural and man-made hazards. Promoting such research activities, securing the necessary resources, and encouraging participation in national and international projects, is essential to better understand our planet and the Universe.

Cooperation of all entities operating in key areas for research, as well as for socio-economic and environmental development, where the use of satellite data is crucial, is equally important. Joint efforts are required to strengthen the support and participation of said entities, improving the quality of services provided to public administration and promoting the advancement of knowledge. COMINT and of the Ministries it includes play a major role in identifying such entities, pursuant to Article 21.3 of Legislative Decree No. 128 of 4 June 2003.

Long-term planning involving the development of skills, the allocation of adequate resources, and close collaboration between science and industry is essential to achieve the aforementioned goals. Using Space as a source of inspiration to enrich STEM university education and creating new education paths are key steps to prepare new generations to meet the needs of the labour market, which is increasingly influenced by the space economy.

Moreover, the expansion of the space economy requires highly qualified professionals, capable of fostering technological innovation and boasting advanced digital skills. It is therefore crucial to attract both national and international talent and stimulate scientific participation in Space-related activities. Promoting STEM education, supporting research and innovation, and creating opportunities for the development of new ideas are priority actions in the medium and long term. Active participation of companies and incentives for young people will help to attract the required skills and further enrich this system.

Lastly, raising widespread awareness of the impact of Space activities and the benefits derived from them is crucial to stimulate interest in and support for research and innovation in this field. Broadening the Space culture and effectively communicating the relevant achievements will help strengthening support for activities and better meet national needs in this area.

Designing an innovative, all-encompassing Higher Education plan on Space-related disciplines, in order to train the class of talents that will have key roles in future national and international institutions, in academic institutions, and in the industry. This is essential to develop the skills required to meet the needs of the labour market influenced by the Space Economy.

## 6. Towards Integrated Sustainability in the Space Sector: Strategies and Opportunities for Italy.

Making sustainability an important goal in the space sector – provided that it also covers all social, economic-industrial, and environmental implications – it is essential to protect Space, preserve the Earth, and ensure investment continuity, adopting an approach aiming at the wellbeing of the Country and its citizens. In line with the evolution of the European industrial policy towards the circular economy, it is advisable to pursue the adoption of sustainable and safe production and management practices for space infrastructure components. Such an approach offers Italy the opportunity to consolidate and develop its national capabilities, as well as to strengthen its leadership in key sectors such as Earth Observation (also for the continuous monitoring of the agricultural, forestry and fishing systems), space transport, and orbital logistics. Special focus should be placed on technologies to mitigate the risks of congestion in low orbits, through the monitoring and management of space debris, including their recovery and possible recycling.

To support this commitment, ensuring continuity of medium and long-term institutional investment in research and technological development is crucial, with such investment targeting services of national interest and related operational activities. Furthermore, said investments – if anchored to stable public demand – will contribute not only to the economic sustainability of the required infrastructure, but also to the consolidation of a self-sustainable market. This scenario promotes the role of national companies and industry as key players in the provision of space products and services, thus meeting the needs of both national and international users based on a user-driven approach.

Effectively coordinating Earth observation-related services and applications will stimulate the transition towards models where the public sector can progressively become a user or purchaser of space services. This development process must necessarily be consistent with ongoing SIAN activities within, whose infrastructure is evolving to implement specific guidelines of various European policies and on competences based on EU Regulations. This will support the commercial development and expansion of the portfolio of remote environmental and territorial monitoring products, while strengthening the knowhow of the national industry and improving its positioning in international markets.

Generally speaking, in parallel with the integration of commercial space capabilities, it will be necessary to maintain some core capabilities based on proprietary governmental infrastructure; envisage the introduction of mechanisms to protect essential security interests; and impose limits on economic operators managing space infrastructures and the data and services they provide.

It is crucial to capitalise on national initiatives (such as those promoted by ASI and Italy's Recovery and Resilience Plan) and international actions (through ESA and EUSPA), to ensure the operability of the infrastructure and services developed, effectively integrating Space activities into sustainability policies benefitting society and the environment.

Italian involvement in ESA should focus on active support for both scientific and application research programmes, promoting far-reaching and innovative initiatives. Overlapping with application programmes managed by the European Commission should be avoided, except where necessary to correct anomalies and asymmetries. In addition, Italy should aim at strengthening the presence of Italian officials within ESA, considering the significant volume of funds paid in and in view of a possible revision of the fair return policy. Similarly,

the objective should be pursued of placing highly qualified people in senior positions both at EUSPA and at the European Commission's Directorate General for Defence Industry and Space (DG-DEFIS).

### 7. Ensuring Space, Strategically Important Infrastructure, and Citizen Security

Ensuring the security of space and strategic terrestrial and orbital infrastructure, together with the protection of citizens, is of paramount importance. Security relating to Space use and Space Security itself are closely related concepts, which are essential to modern society. State use-related security encompasses the growing importance satellite data use for defence, intelligence and civil protection purposes, which entails the need for synergies of institutional actors to improve Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and adapt the national legislation on remote sensing. This way, the development of whatever is needed to build a STM national capabilities to be integrated at European level, which are essential in terms of both security and safety, can and must be launched.

Evolving threats require the national Space community to make cultural and operational changes aiming at improving cyber security and the protection of technological assets. It is necessary to train and introduce cyber experts in institutions and in the space industry. But, most importantly, it is necessary to implement the most appropriate cyber defence of space activities, also in terms of effective mitigation of possible cyber incidents, in line with the National Cybersecurity Strategy.

In the meantime, Space Security focuses on protection against hostile operations targeting space systems and services, which are essential for economic and social activities and strategic independence. Ensuring the resilience and independence of supply chains is crucial, just as implementing the tools required to fully understand the Space environment, assess threats, and conduct operations to protect national infrastructure.

In order to ensure the security of orbital and terrestrial infrastructure, as described above, cooperation of the various departments is essential. A plan should also be put forward, to develop and maintain Space Situational Awareness capabilities. Such plan should also include satellite proximity manoeuvres and consider recent Space Traffic Management (STM) developments.

Promoting Security culture protecting national intellectual property and pursuing technological sovereignty are key activities. Furthermore, strengthening the role of Space in civil protection through targeted investment to improve the availability and integration of satellite information, supports the entire emergency management cycle.

Promoting the monitoring of Italy's cultural heritage, integrated with satellite technologies, and ensuing collaboration with other Countries to protect it and to mitigate the effects of climate change.

To implement the above-mentioned priorities, it is necessary to acquire advanced Space prevention and protection capabilities; evolve towards Space Domain Awareness capabilities that are as autonomous as possible; and further develop In-Orbit Servicing capabilities. Constant monitoring and protection of national strategic infrastructure,

continuous support for both national and international security and defence needs, and the development of reactive launching capabilities to restore compromised satellite operation, are key elements in maintaining security of and from Space.

In order to align economic, human resource and infrastructure investment with the national growth strategy that aims at security and technological sovereignty, the following actions are required:

- Develop a national strategy focusing on the 'three returns': (i) strengthening security and defence capabilities; (ii) commercial benefits through the development of services; (iii) increasing international prestige, aiming at national autonomy;
- Implement a dual approach fostering collaboration with the Defence sector and enhancing the role of political decision-making, by relying on the necessary inter-agency interactions;
- Promoting research and development in advanced fields such as biomedicine, exobiology, quantum technologies, new materials, biotechnology, robotics, Space artificial intelligence, and the science of the Universe, applying these fields across the board.

### 8. Strengthening Italy's Space Leadership – Challenges for an Innovative Future

In order to maintain and expand Italy's international positioning in the Space Economy, it is crucial to support and further develop national competences and capabilities. This will enable Italy to operate autonomously in sectors of vital strategic importance at both national and European level. Strategic, financial, and political support should therefore cover all the areas of space activities where the national system already shows excellent results, including scientific research, Earth observation, in-orbit services, exploration, SSA and navigation, as well as those where existing capabilities still need to be developed and enhanced, including in the areas of Space access and satellite telecommunications.

In this context, Italy needs an appropriate positioning in new space domains, also carrying out a medium and long-term cost-benefit analysis. Emerging areas of interest include the commercial exploitation of Low Earth Orbit, together with aspects such as integrated space logistics, future commercial space stations, space debris management, and secure telecommunications in the national and European spheres; Space infrastructure security and resilience, covering areas such as cybersecurity and Space Domain Awareness; exploration of the Moon and other celestial bodies; sustainability of the Space environment; suborbital flights; and further developing space services for the international market.

Furthermore, Italy should actively promote its skills and best practices internationally, especially in areas where it is already considered as a leader, such as Civil Protection. This requires continuous commitment to innovation and the expansion of the Space industry, also involving sectors that are not strictly related to Space, and enhancing the peculiarities of the Italian system, including its role in the Mediterranean.

Designing a multi-year strategy to strengthen and improve Italy's current competitive positioning by 2030 in key sectors such as Research, Earth Observation, Space Access, Telecommunications and Navigation (PRS Galileo), Space Situation Awareness, and both human and robotic Space Exploration, including in-orbit operations capability.

### 9. Supporting the Growth, Consolidation and Internationalisation of the Industrial Fabric, With Special Focus on SMEs and Start-ups

In order to foster the growth, consolidation and internationalisation of Italy’s industrial sector, with special focus on SMEs and start-ups, targeted industrial policy strategies should be implemented including due diligence procedures and the selection of worthy and promising companies. Such strategies must support both large national players – in their capacity as large-scale system integrators – and the numerous SMEs that are a key element of the national Industry. Increasing their ability to produce and supply advanced products and systems, facilitating aggregation and promoting participation in joint projects are priority actions. In this context, the optimisation of production infrastructure through digitisation, and the adoption of advanced technologies such as robotics, digital twin and artificial intelligence become crucial.

Strengthening Italy's positioning in the European landscape requires a clear and consistent industrial policy, maximising investment effectiveness in various sectors, both nationally and in Europe, also considering the specificities of Southern Italy. Government proactive actions are essential to support the Country's technological and industrial consolidation, as are bilateral dialogue and Gov2Gov collaboration.

Such policies will take into account the need to protect strategically important industrial and scientific assets, by controlling corporate operations, technology transfers, and supply chains.

The international competitiveness of the national Space Industry is another important objective, which requires active support for access to foreign markets. Facilitating and promoting the widespread use of satellite data and information can stimulate the growth and consolidation of the production sector, especially for SMEs and start-ups that represent Italian-made products in the world, thus increasing competitiveness and resilience through a greater adoption of Space technologies in production activities.

It is also crucial to encourage the development of new innovative companies, by providing specific financial, technical, and administrative support for start-ups, facilitating their scaling-up, and making Italy more attractive to young emerging foreign companies. Last, developing in-depth knowledge of the Space Economy at a national level, including through the activities already envisaged in the framework agreement signed by ASI and ISTAT, and promoting structured collaboration of various Italian institutional actors, will further contribute reaching these goals.

To implement the targeted industrial policy strategies described above, a preliminary in-depth analysis is essential of the current progress and future prospects of the Space NRRP projects, redefining their objectives beyond 2026. Afterwards, it will be advisable to stimulate strategic investments in both Italian and foreign start-ups and SMEs.

### 10. Promoting Availability of Venture Capital for Business Growth

To stimulate business growth, it is crucial to increase the availability of venture capital, both from private and public investors, in addition to traditional credit instruments. This includes Venture Capital and Corporate Venture investment, with the aim of supporting innovative business ventures and facilitating the attraction of foreign investments bringing tangible and provable benefits to the Country. In addition, it is important to promote the creation of a regulatory framework facilitating investment, ensuring that the relevant financial instruments meet the needs of businesses, according to their level of development and maturity. Such effort will contribute to increase the availability of financial options for businesses, thereby supporting the development of a dynamic and innovative business ecosystem.

In order to stimulate business growth, it is essential to increase the availability of risk capital, both from private and public entities, and simplify access to credit for small businesses. It is also necessary to strengthen mapping and coordination activity of the actions supported at the national level by through ESA-BIC measure (using Italian funds) and all other actions implemented at the nationally, including ASI’s domestic actions.

### 11. Making Space a Priority in Public Policies

It is essential to place space at the heart of public policies, highlighting its crucial role in economic and social development, in scientific and technological progress, and in responding to major challenges such as climate change, sustainability, security (including agri-food security), defence and civil protection. In order to achieve such objectives, it is essential to continue improving and rationalising the governance of the Space Economy, aiming at greater clarity, efficiency, and swift decision-making, and to complete the adoption of the "Legge Spazio" ('Space Law'), which has already been approved by the Council of Ministers. This also requires optimising the strategic and planning framework, for a more effective use of available resources, ensuring that Space is properly recognised and valued with respect to other national priorities.

Setting up a COMINT Working Group for the Internationalisation of Space Industries, aiming at strengthening Italy's competitive positioning in the global Space market, with a view to promoting the international expansion of Italian Space companies, improving their visibility and ability to compete and collaborate internationally.

### 12. Establishing an Enabling Legal and Regulatory Framework Favouring Competitiveness of the Space Sector

In the current scenario of rapidly developing space activities and increasing number of orbiting objects, it becomes imperative to update and complete the Space national regulatory framework. This process must take place in compliance with European Union and international rules and regulations, with a view supporting and regulating both existing and emerging operational and commercial aspects of the Space Economy. Special focus should be placed on the safety, liability, and environmental sustainability of space-related activities and on their impacts on national security.

To create a more competitive industrial environment, it is necessary to promote the streamlining of administrative procedures and adopt simpler and more efficient national contract schemes. This will help simplifying and reducing the red tape, thus facilitating procurement operations in the Space sector, and strengthening the national Space industry's competitiveness.

Efficiently reform the national governance of the Space sector by adapting it to the new international, geopolitical, and industrial context. In this framework, the initiative to adopt a national Space law is welcome. It is desirable that it will fit into a legal framework regulating not only 'Space Economy' access, but also other aspects such as: (i) national governance of the Space sector; (ii) the relationship between the Government and Space operators; (iii) clear attribution of the powers to certify and authorise industrial operators; (iv) the Space access legal framework; (v) the economic exploitation of space resources; (v) special procurement measures to promote the widest and most open participation of economic operators, in particular start-ups, new operators, and SMEs; (vi) the protection of national security.

## 13. International Relations and Cooperation

In recent years, Space Diplomacy has significantly broadened its scope, becoming an essential element of national strategy, helping to promote Italy on the international stage. By using space systems and services for the benefit of scientific, technological, and commercial progress, Space Diplomacy proves to be an effective tool to facilitate international cooperation and strengthen relations with other Countries, including in traditional and complementary sectors.

For this reason, it is vital to promote space diplomacy activities intensifying multilateral international cooperation – with organisations such as the EU, ESA and the UN – and bilateral cooperation with key global and European players. It is essential to ensure an influential and constant presence of Italy in international institutions and organisations, by actively participating in the programmes of the United Nations, the ESA, and the European Commission, and through collaborations with NASA and other countries' space agencies.

In Europe, Italy should exercise strong and coordinated leadership within ESA and improve its positioning in EU Space programmes, in order to support the competitiveness of its national industry and stimulate synergies between ESA and the EU. It is also essential to expand bilateral cooperation with key European countries such as France, Germany, and the UK.

Along the lines of Italy's Space sector growth, it is important to maintain close collaboration with the US, participating in G2G-format programmes, such as the Artemis Accords, to promote high-tech and industrial investment and support B2B collaborations on strategic aspects for Italy.

Furthermore, priority should be given to enhanced cooperation with non-European countries of special political interest, such as Japan, India, the Gulf, and Latin American countries, Kenya, as well as cooperation with the African Union and its Member States. This will enhance the efforts and activities undertaken by the Government in geographic areas of high political relevance, including Africa, through initiatives such as the Mattei Plan, addressing sustainability and security challenges and promoting development through scientific and technological collaborations.

Further develop Space Diplomacy in line with the Country's foreign policy priorities, by initiating structured space dialogue with priority Countries identified by COMINT and allocating dedicated resources for embassies of strategic interest.

## 14. Derivative Documents

Drawing up a national Space access requirement, taking into account the opportunities offered by the Malindi base, also in relation to the Mattei Plan for Africa.

Carrying out a thorough economic and econometric analysis of the Space sector, in order to better direct the national strategy and, over time, ascertain the soundness of the decisions made.

Carrying out an analysis of the current and prospective progress of all projects, including NRRP projects, to allow taking action on the post-2026 strategies, defining the operational projects for the Mattei Plan for Space, and properly allocating resources within ESA, EU/EC, EUSPA.

Updating the 'National Security Strategy for Space'.

Pursuant to Legislative Decree no. 128 of June 4th 2003, as amended and supplemented, the Italian Space Agency (ASI) is tasked with drafting – in collaboration and coordination with the entities/bodies envisaged by the aforesaid Law – the " National Strategic Space Policy Document" (DSPSN) and the "Strategic Vision Document for Space" "DVSS" in line with the present Government's Space and Aerospace Policy Guidelines, with a view to defining the Country's 2030 positioning strategy, especially in the areas of Earth Observation, Space Access, Telecommunications and Navigation (PRS, Galileo), Space Awareness, In-Orbit Servicing, and Human and Robotic Exploration (including in-orbit operations). The document shall necessarily be submitted to COMINT for approval.