

**JOINT DECLARATION
BETWEEN THE
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH OF ITALIAN REPUBLIC
ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

The Ministry of Education of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Ministry of university and research of Italian Republic (hereinafter separately referred to as a "Party" or jointly referred to as "Parties"), recognise and affirm the warm bilateral relations between the two countries and desire to future strengthen cooperation in the area of higher Education.

Recalling the bilateral meeting between the parties from January 28th, 2025 in Addis Ababa.

In Accordance with the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation done at Rome on 1997, Italy and Ethiopia agreed to strengthen the bilateral cooperation between their respective higher education ecosystems.

Recognizing the crucial role of higher education in driving sustainable development, socio-economic transformations and promoting the dialogue between Ethiopia and Italy in the areas of common interest.

In accordance with the Mattei Plan for Africa promoted by Italy with particular reference to the role reserved in that plan for research and higher education.

Willing to continue improving their respective higher education ecosystems and to strengthen the cooperation between Ethiopian and Italian higher education institutions.

Have reached the following understanding:

Bilateral Cooperation in the field of higher education. The parties agree to;

- Encourage direct cooperation between the Italian and Ethiopian higher education institutions by supporting joint initiatives in the fields of common interest, taking into account the ongoing discussions between the Conference of Italian University Rectors and the Addis Ababa University and the initiatives carried out by the Italian Higher Education Institutions with Africa;
- Facilitate the exchanges of students, professors, researchers, and staff members;



- Promote co-tutored doctorates, double degrees, and joint degrees in the framework of transnational education initiatives;
- Discuss the possibility of signing and implementing a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of Higher Education.

Multilateral cooperation in the fields of higher education. The Parties agree to;

- Foster cooperation within the main common multilateral programs, such as Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe;
- Strengthen the joint participation of Italian and Ethiopian Higher Education Institutions in international calls for proposals related to the fields of shared interest;
- Improve collaboration opportunities among Italian and Ethiopian higher education institutions, leveraging the ongoing initiatives and programs of common interest, such as the African Union-European Union Innovation Agenda and UNESCO's "Campus Africa".

The Parties decided to carry out a periodic review of the activities agreed upon above via focal points to be identified in the respective Ministries. In addition, the two Parties will coordinate a regular assessment of the achievements.

Signed at Addis Ababa on January 28th, 2025

For
The Ministry of Higher Education of
the Federal Democratic Republic of
Ethiopia

Berhanu Nega (Professor)



For
the Ministry of University and Research
of the Italian Republic

Anna Maria Bernini

