

**Joint Declaration  
on Cooperation in the Fields of Research and Innovation,  
between  
the Ministry of University and Research of the Italian Republic  
and  
the State Department for Science, Research, and Innovation of the Republic of Kenya**

The Ministry of University and Research of the Italian Republic and the State Department for Science, Research, and Innovation of the Republic of Kenya (hereinafter referred to individually as "the Participant" and collectively as "the Participants") underline their intention to deepening bilateral cooperation in the fields of research and innovation, grounded in mutual respect, shared values, and a common commitment to sustainable development and scientific progress.

Building on decades of cooperation, Italy and Kenya have built a substantive and evolving partnership across multiple domains of scientific and academic endeavor. This cooperation has strengthened ties between their respective research communities, advanced knowledge exchange, and supported innovation for the benefit of both nations.

Within the renewed framework established by the Mattei Plan, the Participants reaffirm the central role of research and innovation in promoting dialogue, mutual understanding, and long-term development between Africa and Europe.

In February 2026, the Minister of University and Research of the Italian Republic and the Minister of Education of the Republic of Kenya signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the foundational conditions for enhanced cooperation between their respective research and innovation ecosystems, encompassing national programmes, institutions, infrastructures, and universities.

### **Areas of Cooperation**

The Participants express their shared intent to advance bilateral cooperation across a broad spectrum of scientific and research disciplines, including but not limited to: **(a) agricultural technologies and food sciences; (b) climate change management and renewable energy; (c) high-performance computing and artificial intelligence applications; (d) digital higher education; (e) marine sciences; (f) medical sciences; (g) biology; (h) genomics and biotechnology; (i) engineering sciences and technologies; (j) humanities and social sciences; (k) space-related research and Earth Observation.** The Participants recognise that the frontiers of science are dynamic and that cooperation may extend to further emerging and interdisciplinary fields, as mutually agreed, in furtherance of their common objective to promote scientific excellence and sustainable development.

### **Modalities of Cooperation**

The Participants further express their shared interest in deepening cooperation among research centers, universities, and innovation ecosystems, with a view to advancing scientific excellence and addressing common global challenges, including within the framework of the AU–EU Innovation Agenda. Specifically, the Participants intend to further improve their bilateral cooperation as follows:

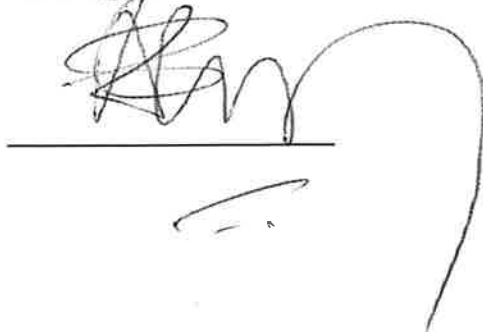
- Support joint research initiatives and projects on scientific areas of common interest as identified above;
- Launch a "**flagship transnational mobility initiative**" aimed at facilitating access for Kenyan researchers to Italian research infrastructures, with a view to fostering stronger connections between Italian and Kenyan scientific communities, enabling new collaborative opportunities, and promoting shared growth. In this context, the initiative is intended to support a mutually beneficial exchange, whereby Italian research infrastructures and hosting institutions further enhance their international openness and capacity, while Kenyan researchers both gain access to cutting-edge facilities and expertise and actively contribute to the enrichment and advancement of these infrastructures.
- Promote cooperation within the framework of the multilateral initiatives of shared interest.
- Promote structured and sustainable partnerships between Italian and Kenyan research institutions and universities.
- Support researchers, scientists, academics, and staff mobility in both directions.

This Joint Declaration is not legally binding and does not give rise to enforceable rights or obligations under international law or the domestic law of either Participant. Nothing herein is intended to be construed as creating a treaty relationship or as superseding any existing bilateral agreements.

Signed in duplicate, in the English language, on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2026.

**State Department  
for Science, Research, and Innovation of the  
Republic of Kenya**

**Shaukat Abdulrazak**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right, positioned above a solid horizontal line.

**Ministry  
of University and Research of the  
Italian Republic**

**Anna Maria Bernini**

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large initial 'A' and several loops, positioned above a solid horizontal line.