



*Italian Permanent Representative
with World Meteorological Organisation*

**WELCOME ADDRESS
ON THE OCCASION
OF JOINT CALMET XVI AND CONECT-3 CONFERENCE**

I am very pleased to give you my personal warm welcome to Italy, and to Florence, with my regrets for not being able to join you in person.

As the Italian Permanent Representative to WMO, let me express my satisfaction and my deep appreciation to the Institute of BioEconomy of the Italian National Research Council, in its role of Italian Regional Training Centre, for arranging and hosting such a relevant event.

This is a quite unique experience both for those in presence and for participants connected online. We have more than 200 participants, of whom 50 in presence, from different Regional Associations, representing RTCs, NMHS, Academia and Education entities. 12 participants are Italians, therefore I encourage you to take benefit of their presence for any information or curiosity you may need during your stay in Florence, I'm sure they will be glad to assist you.

Today you start a 2-fold Event, through 5 working days you will be engaged with Joint CALMet XVI and CONECT-3 Conference. In this endeavour you will be assisted and advised by a number of high-level professionals from the academia, research centres, and NMHS. Moreover, you will benefit of the great experience of the Italian RTC, whose activities within WMO Education and Training programmes date back to the beginning of this Century. Since than Italian RTC provided 38 Courses in Italy for some 850 participants and a number of "on demand" activities in the recipients Countries, mainly African.

In this vein, the back-to-back format of this week Conferences will provide you the opportunity to share experiences and best practices in order to exploit each other contributions when back home in your respective responsibilities. This approach is exactly consistent with the spirit of the World Meteorological Organization. Indeed, during her speech in the opening session of last month Extraordinary Congress, WMO Secretary General – prof. Celeste SAULO – emphasised a couple of principles which are the baselines of this week activities. Amongst others, I'd like to recall her words, when saying that **"Nowadays we shall consider sharing data and information as a Public Common Good"** and also **"Knowledge and collaboration are the most powerful bridge through generations"**. Lastly, she recalled the motto of the 75th Anniversary of WMO by stating that **"Science for Action in more than a slogan, it is a philosophy to protect people and save lives!"**. I'm sure you will reflect the spirit of these words by engaging and committing actively during this week Conferences, to the mutual benefit of all of us, and of our respective Countries.

I wish you a fruitful week, and an enjoyable stay in Florence for those attending in person.

Florence – November, 24th 2025

Brig. Gen. Italian Air Force
Luca BAIONE