

Joint Statement on Funding of Italian-Chinese Collaborative Research Projects under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)

In consideration of the present state of collaboration in science between Italy and China and taking into account the general Agreement for Cooperation in Science and Technology signed by the Government of Italy and the Government of the People's Republic of China on 9 June 1998;

Under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Beijing on 17 November 2015, between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Italy (hence referred to as MAECI) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (hereafter referred to as NSFC);

In order to proceed with the implementation of the above-mentioned Memorandum of 17 November 2015, the Italian delegation and the Chinese delegation, met on 11 January 2023 [remotely via Video Tele Conference].

Minister Plenipotentiary Giuseppe Pastorelli, Director for integrated promotion and innovation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), as head of the Italian delegation and Dr. Wenxuan Yin, Deputy Director General of the Bureau of International Cooperation of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), as head of the Chinese delegation, in following the notice for the collection of proposals for scientific research projects published in Italy and in China from March 23 to May 25, 2022, have expressed their satisfaction for the particularly significant number of 143 joint proposals validly received.

At the end of the evaluation process of the submitted projects, it was agreed to select for joint financing from Italian side (MAECI) and Chinese side (NSFC), the following research initiatives:

Area	Project Title	Chinese PI	Italian PI
Infrastructure	Accelerators for Medicine: Optimizing Neutron Generation and Use for cancer	Jianji Pan	Valerio Vercesi
Infrastructure	Impact of energetic particles on burning fusion plasma transport and turbulence	MA Ruirui	Matteo Valerio Falessi
Food	INSIGHT-FOOD: An INnovative microwave SensInG system for tHe evaluation and moniToring of FOOD quality and safety	Dazhi Ding	Francesca Vipiana
Food	Biosynthesis regulation of metabolic markers and correlation with quality safety during fruit decay	Bo Qiang Li	Gianfranco Romanazzi
Energy	Co-production of green hydrogen and carbon materials with high electrochemical performance through molten-salt assisted pyrolysis of biomass	Shurong Wang	Daniele Fabbri
Energy	Highly Adaptive Proton Exchange Membrane Water Electrolysis under Dynamic Power Input	Jun Li	Alessandra D'Epifanio
Environment	Functionalized biochars as soil remediation strategy for heavy metals	MA Chuanxin	Elena Maestri
Environment	Sewage advanced treatment combining resource recovery, emerging pollutants degradation and carbon emission reduction: A new strategy to turn a problem into an opportunity	LI Anjie	Carlo Pastore
Health	Trustworthy AI-driven next generation precision medicine in COVID-19	Linlin Shen	Paolo Soda

Health	Development of diagnostic tools to assess population susceptibility to viral infections and related diseases severity	Yang Li	Emanuele Andreano
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The two sides have agreed to proceed to co-funding, within the amount of funds available on their annual budgets, the above projects over the next three years.

Both parties will schedule a mid-term review of the above projects no later than December 31st, 2024.

Roma, 11 gennaio 2023

Beijing, 11 January 2023

Min. Plen. Giuseppe Pastorelli

Director for integrated promotion and innovation,
Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation

Yin Wenxuan

Deputy Director-General of the Bureau of
International Cooperation, National Natural Science
Foundation of China