23 October - Climate change - Coastal erosion - Round Table
Outcome statements - by speakers and contributors to the round table

Camera dei Deputati (Lattanzio)
Protecting Italy's coasts is vital for security, prosperity, and cohesion, and demands coordinated laws, planning, and finance from the Mediterranean to municipal level. Decades of shoreline retreat, sediment imbalance, and climate pressure raise risks for cities, infrastructure, and tourism. A solid framework now aligns the Mediterranean Convention and ICZM Protocol with EU directives on maritime planning, marine strategy, and flood risk, Italy's devolved competences and 2018 guidelines, and the 2023 National Adaptation Plan. With coastal ecosystem services worth €494bn annually and extreme-event losses exceeding €822bn, priorities are nature-based solutions, basin-scale sediment management, hybrid defenses, interoperable data, and measurable, preventive investment.

Bangladesh Embassy (Al Amin)
During the panel discussion, the representative of the Embassy of Bangladesh underscored the stark contrast between developed and developing nations in confronting the consequences of climate change. It was noted that a country such as Italy possesses the institutional capacity and preparedness to respond effectively to climate emergencies, while a country from the Global South like Bangladesh, with its larger population and higher exposure to recurrent climatic disasters, faces far greater challenges. The statement emphasized that the Global South, particularly the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), deltaic nations, and other climate-vulnerable countries, must raise a unified voice in COP negotiations, within the UNFCCC framework and other international fora, so that their priorities and legitimate demands are duly recognized. Commending the Maldives for its leadership in global climate advocacy, the intervention called for stronger South–South collaboration, enhanced knowledge exchange, and joint initiatives in climate resilience and conservation.

Titan4 (Lapaire)
Rising sea levels and global warming are increasing risks for coastal populations, making these areas more vulnerable to flooding and land subsidence caused by excessive groundwater extraction. Since over half of the world's population lives in coastal zones, understanding these processes is vital for sustainable management. Multi-source Earth Observation (EO) data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) offer effective tools to monitor ground deformation (via InSAR) and water mass changes (via GRACE/GRACE-FO). Integrating these data with AI enables accurate risk assessment, supports climate adaptation and guides infrastructure protection through scalable, data-driven geospatial platforms for resilient coastal management.

Federazione del Mare (Mazza)
This issue concerns us all, and particularly those who live and work by the sea. Our coastlines are not just borders on a map: they are living ecosystems, economic lifelines, and cultural treasures. And they are increasingly under pressure. Rising sea levels, stronger storms, and changing sediment patterns are transforming entire stretches of our shores, affecting communities, ports, tourism, and biodiversity. What happens along our coasts is a visible sign of how profoundly climate change is reshaping our planet. It reminds us that the sea connects us all: what happens in one corner of the Mediterranean, or on any coastline around the world, inevitably affects us elsewhere. As the *Federazione del Mare*, we believe that addressing these challenges requires not only scientific understanding, but also cooperation between public institutions, businesses, and citizens. We must combine innovation, sustainable development, and maritime culture to build resilience and protect the natural heritage that defines who we are.

Commonwealth Club (Mitrea)
Advanced models show a wide range of possible outcomes, highlighting the unpredictability of coastal dynamics linked to sea-level rise and climate change, and the need for integrated strategies that combine natural defenses and innovative technologies like AI. Given the unpredictability of the dynamics, I think that being prepared to address also high tail events is vital to safeguard communities and ecosystems, ensuring resilience not only in expected conditions but also in the face of unprecedented challenges, and only coordinated, cross-border actions between states can address these complex challenges. This is essential for guiding effective policies and sustainable development.