



Italian Air Force
Operational Forces Command
Permanent Representative of Italy with WMO

To: **Dr. Florence Rabier**
ECMWF Director-General

Subject: Letter of support for *ExtremeEarth*.

Dear Dr Rabier,

in line with ECMWF Council's decision and because of the importance that *ExtremeEarth* project could have for the sake of people all over the planet, ITAF-ReMet strongly supports ECMWF, with the present letter of endorsement, in its activity of preparation of the full proposal for an EU Flagship and its leadership.

Italy has a geomorphologic structure and a peculiar geographic position and shape that have great impact on social and everyday life; the Alpine and Apennines chains as well as the Mediterranean Sea around and the closeness to African continent, strongly influence meteorological perturbations and climate regimes to an extent that makes forecasts and climatological outlook a constant daily challenge. Moreover, being our Country prone to extreme natural phenomena, such as flash floods, droughts, wind storms, earthquakes and volcano eruptions, it becomes paramount the chance to employ in the future the capabilities developed by such Project to strengthen the resilience of human infrastructures and to improve more and more the capability of governmental organizations to safeguard the whole society, coping as fast as possible with natural disasters.

Furthermore, in these last 10 years, international organizations like WMO itself and EUMETNET have underpinned and fostered programmes related to disaster risk reduction through the improvement of extreme weather events forecasting systems and a real-time dissemination and sharing of such information by web-media. Italy is actively part of such programmes and aware that these activities represent one of the main pillars of future developments in our capability to forecast the occurrence of natural hazards and mitigate their impact on the environment and human life.

Finally, it is worthwhile to mention that our involvement will be supportive, if not crucial, to define the directions of the developments and the expected outcomes of the project. For this reason Italy looks forward for any further collaboration in the fields of extreme weather predictions and monitoring of Earth system.

Yours sincerely,

Brig. Gen. Silvio CAU

(Permanent Representative of Italy with WMO)