

## 2020 General Meeting

### Address by the Chairman, Dott. Galateri di Genola

Good morning to all our shareholders, and thank you for taking part. I am glad to be able to talk to so many of you despite the circumstances.

The electronic systems bringing us together today enable us not only to execute the bureaucratic formalities for the General Meeting, but also to continue taking part in the life of the Company and to briefly share some highlights from the past year.

As always, at this point I should like to comment on the economic and geopolitical situation, trends in the insurance sector and outline a possible outlook for the future.

### The economic and geopolitical situation

According to the latest IMF estimates, the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed the world economy into the jaws of a recession – with forecasts pointing to an overall fall of approximately 3 percentage points in global GDP, and around 7 points in the Eurozone GDP.

Italy, which was the first epicentre of the epidemic in Europe, has had to implement stringent measures to contain the virus. These measures are expected to cause a contraction in economic activity in the first half of the year, followed by a very gradual return to normality. According to the International Monetary Fund, 2020 should see an overall economic decline of nearly 10%, double the slowdown recorded in 2009.

In this situation, concerted action by the European Union and the central banks is crucial. Circumstances demand that we display a spirit of collaboration and solidarity. This is the thinking behind the temporary framework announced by the European Commission to support workers in the worst-hit countries and the agreement reached last week for the economic recovery fund, as well as the huge securities purchase program announced by the ECB to provide the financial system with liquidity. It is a good start, but much else will be needed (especially on fiscal policy) to put the European economy back on a more solid footing and, above all, to avoid a new risk of fragmentation. We hope further steps will be taken in the coming weeks.

In this situation, the insurance sector continues to be an area of resilience in the Italian economy, not simply in terms of financial stability but due to the very DNA of its business, which involves management of assets and liabilities over a largely medium/long-term timeframe.

### Generali – 2019 results

Generali goes into this phase in a solid position. The results for 2019 we are presenting for your approval today are very good. As I said, they were achieved in a complex macroeconomic context, demonstrating the Group's ability and commitment to pursuing the objectives of its strategic plan. This ability and commitment will be unwavering in the future

too, which will certainly present greater uncertainty but which we shall face with full confidence in our strengths.

In the Life business we have to deal with the challenge of the sharp drop in stock prices and extremely low interest rates. However, we start from a position of solid solvency and liquidity. This, together with our strong technical results, will enable us to provide the protection our clients expect from us.

## **A different world**

Once the lockdown has ended, I think we shall find ourselves in a very different world.

The world's geopolitical balances are shifting and it is becoming increasingly clear that relations among countries will change; at the same time, the climate data scientists are gathering on a daily basis indicate quite clearly that we need to rethink the way we use resources and the impact of our activities on the planet; no less important, in recent days we have seen how cybersecurity is increasingly crucial in guaranteeing development, by safeguarding people, privacy, savings and production.

So, we shall have to face new challenges, new paradigms in the protection of individuals and asset management.

To meet these challenges, I think we need to invest in two directions, as Generali has been doing for a number of years:

- in new technology, in the collection, management and protection of big data, in connectivity systems, home automation, the integration of robotics in our daily lives – enabling us to deliver advanced solutions to meet the needs of our clients. And also, as we have seen during the present crisis, in forms of social distancing and remote working, to guarantee operating continuity in emergency situations, and at the same time reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions;
- and then in sustainability, by applying and strengthening a governance system that supports responsible business geared to excellence in all processes and attentive to the major issues of our time, from respect for the planet to protection of the individual in order to contribute to a fairer society today and for the future generations.

I want to end by saying that the Generali Group's approach in the face of these challenges is to be courageous in thinking about the opportunities and risks of the future, over and beyond the imaginable. And to respond with the realism that has distinguished us for almost two hundred years now.

## **Conclusions**

Thank you again for following this audio-conference; I am certain that the next General Meeting will be held, as is customary, in our splendid offices in Trieste.

I hand over to the Group CEO Philippe Donnet and the CFO Cristiano Borean for their brief reports.