



*Permanent Mission of Italy to the
International Organizations in Geneva*

39th session of the Human Rights Council

ITEM 2 GENERAL DEBATE – UPDATE BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Thank you, Mr. President.

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU.

Madam High Commissioner, let me first express my congratulations for your appointment and my best wishes for the successful fulfillment of your mandate.

On the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and punishment of the Crime of Genocide this year, we reaffirm our commitment to the Convention and our engagement to prevent and punish the crime of genocide. Mr. President, the migration issue remains at the top of the Italian human rights and humanitarian agenda. While we remain committed to protect human rights of migrants and refugees, we advocate for an effective international governance of migration, based on the principles of shared responsibility and partnership among countries of origin, transit and destination. Italy continues to rescue migrants at sea. Since 2013, the Italian units succeeded in rescuing over 300 thousand people in the Mediterranean Sea. Our integrated approach to migration management has led to a significant reduction in the number of shipwreck victims (-52% compared to last year). Italy is also strongly committed in fighting against trafficking and smuggling of migrants in order to prevent departures and loss of lives at the sea.

The principles of dignity, equality and solidarity are at the core of human rights. We are here to cooperate together for their protection but also for their promotion, particularly towards younger generations. In this respect, Italy is proud to renew its commitment to all initiatives aimed at supporting the human rights education and training.

I thank you.