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Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

52nd session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive dialogue with the Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on minority issues

23 March 2023

Statement delivered by Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva

Mister President,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

Italy is strongly committed to promoting and protecting the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities, including Christian minorities who continue to suffer persecutions and attacks.

While marking the 30th anniversary of the UN Declaration, last year reminded us of the importance of this issue, made all the more urgent by armed conflicts and humanitarian crises which exacerbate the already precarious living conditions of persons belonging to minorities.

On a positive note, in 2022 we also commemorated the 30th anniversary of the closure of the dispute between Italy and Austria on Alto-Adige/South Tyrol, which represents a concrete model of dialogue and coexistence in the framework of the common EU membership.

Mister Special Rapporteur,

As you highlight in your report, we need to build on the momentum generated by the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the UN Declaration, in order to promote synergies within the OHCHR and with other UN entities to strengthen the discussion and protection of minority rights.

We therefore strongly support your call to mainstream the protection of the rights of minorities across the UN System, also considering the valuable expertise provided by centres such as the European Academy of Bolzano that you mentioned.

I thank you