



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

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Item 2
General Debate on the Annual report of the
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
13 September 2023

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

Mr. High Commissioner, Mr. President,

Italy aligns itself with the EU statement.

As we approach the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we are committed to reconfirm its principles of human dignity, equality and mutual respect, and to reaffirm the “*common language of human rights*”.

Today, humanity is facing multiple crises, including food insecurity, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine.

Italy supports the robust response by the three Rome-based UN Agencies FAO, WFP and IFAD. Last July Rome hosted the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment, which will inform upcoming processes, such as the SDG Summit, COP28 and the Summit of the Future.

Italy will continue to support all efforts towards the resumption of the *Black Sea Grain Initiative* and to keep the issue of food security high in the international agenda, also in the framework of the Italian G7 Presidency in 2024.

Protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide, including freedom of religion or belief, is essential to ensure sustainable long-term peace and stability. Italy is extremely concerned by the increasing violence and discrimination against persons belonging to ethnic or religious minorities in the world, in particular Christian communities.

We call on Member States to foster protection of human rights of all persons in marginalized and vulnerable situations, and to uphold dialogue and cooperation.