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Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

## **54<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Biennial panel discussion on youth and human rights**

*26 September 2023*

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

*Mr. Vice-President, distinguished panellists,*

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

The adverse effects of climate change have accelerated. Heat waves, floods, droughts, melting glaciers and fires are just some examples. We consider that this challenge can only be tackled by joining forces and actions, also in view of the upcoming COP28 and the Italian Presidency of the G7 in 2024.

The engagement of youth in climate change and global environmental decision-making processes is one of Italy's key priorities. In 2021 Italy hosted the "Youth4Climate" meeting that allowed young people from all over the world to participate in the Pre-COP process and is now become a permanent platform.

We also support education and training initiatives for young people on climate change, energy and ecological transition. Last December Italy, in cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), launched a training programme for young climate leaders and activists in over 80 countries and developed a toolkit, called "I ACT", which will serve as the basis for a first phase of "training of trainers".

We remain committed to fostering youth participation in order to guarantee their crucial contribution to realizing the right of everyone to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment and to achieving progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.