



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

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**55th session of the Human Rights Council  
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human  
rights in Afghanistan**

*29 February 2024*

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

*Mr. President,*

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

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his report, which highlights once again the continued deterioration of the human rights situation in the Afghanistan since the Taliban seized control of the territory as well as the dire humanitarian situation, in particular for millions of children deprived of basic rights and essential services.

Italy condemns all violations and abuses and remains deeply worried especially about the systematic discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular with regard to the equal access to work and education, as well as against ethnic and religious minorities.

Italy renews the call to the de facto authorities to protect the rights of minorities and ensure the respect of human rights of women and girls and their full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in all spheres of life and political processes. Civic space must be restored and NGOs, journalists and media workers shall be allowed to operate freely. Perpetrators of all violations and abuses, including attacks on ethnic and religious minorities, must be held accountable.

In conclusion, Italy reiterates its support for the mandates of the Special Rapporteur and *UNAMA*, the appointment of a *UN Special Envoy for Afghanistan* and the ongoing ICC investigation.

*Thank you*