



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

**55th Session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Syria**

March 18, 2024

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

Mr. President

Italy aligns itself with the EU statement and thanks the Commission of Inquiry for its latest report, referred to government-controlled areas, to areas controlled by HTS in the North-West, to Aleppo, Tall Abyad and Ras al Ayn and to the North-East.

Thirteen years into the conflict, the situation in Syria remains dire, and the report confirms attacks against civilians and civilian objects, arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearances and deaths in detention left without investigations.

We urge all parties to respect their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law, ensuring the protection of civilians and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

We call on the Syrian authorities to take all necessary measures to prevent acts of torture and ill-treatment, in line with the order of the International Court of Justice.

As regards the return of refugees, we consider with concern that, due to the economic and security situations, the conditions are not yet met.

We welcome the establishment of the Independent Institution on Missing Persons to assist families in the search of their missing relatives.

Italy calls for the resumption of a political process under the auspices of the United Nations to realize the aspirations of the Syrian people, remains ready to fight all forms of impunity and reiterates its full support to the essential work of the Commission of Inquiry and of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism.

I thank you.