



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

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**56th session of the Human Rights Council
Enhanced Interactive Dialogue with the SR on the situation of human rights in
Afghanistan**

18 June 2024

**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 Special Rapporteur for his report and all speakers for their contributions.

It is essential that the international community and this Council continue to address the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, which remains extremely dire, with particular regard to the gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls, described in the report as “gender apartheid”. The increasing restrictions imposed on their fundamental rights - including the rights to education, work and freedom of movement – are unacceptable and must be lifted.

While reaffirming the importance of justice and accountability, we are alarmed that the systematic oppression of women and girls may amount to gender persecution, a crime against humanity defined in the *Rome Statute*, to which Afghanistan is a party.

Italy remains also deeply concerned about the impact of the current situation on millions of children deprived of basic rights and services, as well as on ethnic and religious groups and minorities.

We recall that Afghanistan must respect its obligations under international law, including CEDAW, CRC and other treaties to which it is also a party.

In conclusion, Italy underlines that the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of Afghan women in all spheres of society as well as in the international processes is crucial to ensure sustainable peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan.

I thank you