



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

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**56th session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner's annual report**

19-20 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 reiterates its full support for the Office of the High Commissioner and all UN human rights mechanisms.

The protection and promotion of human rights and the fight against all forms of discrimination represent a longstanding priority of Italy's foreign policy, in accordance with our Constitution. As reaffirmed by the Leaders of the G7 under the Italian Presidency last week, we firmly believe in democratic principles and free societies, universal human rights, social progress, respect for multilateralism and the rule of law.

In line with international law and the UN Charter, we will continue to support Ukraine's fight for freedom and its reconstruction for as long as it takes.

In a spirit of equitable and strategic partnership, we are committed to stepping up our support to African countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, strengthen democratic governance, contribute to global stability and prosperity.

We are also committed to reinforcing global food security and enhancing climate resilience, including by launching the *Apulia Food Systems Initiative*.

Italy has always been at the forefront of the international campaign for a universal moratorium on executions, as first step towards the abolition of the death penalty. We condemn discrimination, violence and persecution against religious and ethnic minorities, such as Christian communities. We must step up our joint efforts to address global challenges, including human trafficking and the root causes of irregular migration.

I thank you