



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

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58th session of the Human Rights Council

Biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty

Theme: Contribution of the judiciary to the advancement of human rights and the question of the death penalty

25th February 2025

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

Mr. President, High Commissioner, distinguished panellists,

Italy aligns itself with the EU statement and would like to add the following considerations in its national capacity.

Italy remains steadfast in its commitment to the universal abolition of the death penalty. The judicial system is not merely an instrument for enforcing laws but a fundamental pillar in safeguarding human dignity and upholding human rights. The role of the judiciary in shaping a legal framework that prioritizes rehabilitation over retribution is crucial in ensuring justice systems that reflect the fundamental values of human dignity and fairness.

The irreversible nature of capital punishment, combined with the well-documented risks of wrongful convictions, raises concerns. Even the most robust legal systems are not immune to errors. Italy believes that an independent judiciary, free from political pressures, is instrumental in fostering a culture of justice that seeks alternatives to the death penalty and promotes human rights-centered penal reforms.

Italy commends judicial initiatives worldwide that have led to the restriction and eventual abolition of the death penalty. We encourage continued dialogue on best practices that enable judicial institutions to advance human rights while ensuring accountability and fairness in sentencing practices.

Distinguished panellists,

In light of the judiciary's evolving role in human rights protection, how can judicial actors be further empowered to champion abolitionist policies in jurisdictions where political resistance to abolition remains strong?

I thank you.