



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

Check against delivery

## **59<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Enhanced Interactive Dialogue with the SR on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan**

*16 June 2025*

**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.

We are appalled by the ongoing deterioration of the human rights situation in Afghanistan, particularly the systematic and institutionalized oppression of women and girls. They continue to face unacceptable restrictions on their rights and freedoms, including the dismantling of legal protections, exclusion from public life, and imposition of discriminatory practices.

While underscoring the need for justice and accountability, Italy notes with concern the assessment that such systematic oppression may amount to gender persecution – a crime against humanity under the Rome Statute, to which Afghanistan is a party.

We are also deeply concerned about the situation of children deprived of basic rights and services, and of women and girls from minorities and marginalized groups.

Italy remains steadfast in its commitment to addressing this dire human rights situation. In that regard, Mr. Special Rapporteur, how can the international community most effectively support Afghan women and girls and promote tangible improvements in their full enjoyment of human rights?

*I thank you.*