



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

Check against delivery

**39th Special Session of the Human Rights Council
to address the deteriorating human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran
23rd January 2026**

**Statement delivered by Ambassador Luigi Maria Vignali,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva**

Mr. President,

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

We express our deepest concern over the violent repression of protests in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the reported severe human rights violations across the country.

We strongly condemn the excessive and lethal use of force by security forces against demonstrators who were legitimately exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. Reports of thousands of deaths, widespread arbitrary arrests and serious ill-treatment of detainees are deeply alarming and unacceptable.

Italy unequivocally condemns the indiscriminate use of the death penalty as a means to suppress protests and silence dissent. Public statements by Iranian judicial authorities suggesting expedited trials and the possible imposition of capital punishment against protesters constitute a grave violation of Iran's international human rights obligations and a direct assault on human dignity. Italy reiterates its firm opposition to the death penalty at all times and in all circumstances and urges the Iranian Authorities to halt immediately all executions, as a first step towards a more general moratorium.

We echo the call of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for an immediate end to violence and repression, as well as for the full restoration of internet and telecommunications services. Internet shutdowns undermine fundamental freedoms, hinder independent monitoring and exacerbate the suffering of the population.

Italy urges Iranian authorities to release all those arbitrarily detained and ensure accountability for all human rights violations committed in the context of the repression. In this regard, Italy strongly supports the mandates of the Special Rapporteur on Iran and the Fact-Finding Mission and calls on Iranian authorities to fully cooperate with those mechanisms and start an open and democratic dialogue with the protesters.

Italy stands in solidarity with the Iranian people and their legitimate aspirations for freedom, dignity and justice.

Thank you, Mr. President.