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Italy

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I. Process for the preparation of the report

1. This report is the result of consultation processes coordinated by *Comitato Interministeriale per i diritti umani* (in Italian, *CIDU*) at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (in Italian, *MAECI*), with support from competent Administrations. CIDU established a WG¹ to prepare it, besides holding meetings with CSOs.²
2. This report supplements the Italian periodic reporting since 2019 and provides an overview of key developments since Cycle 3, including 2021-Mid-Term Report, whose Annex was devoted to relevant LRGs³ good practices.
3. Established in 1978⁴, CIDU is Italy's NMIRF,⁵ including, among others, representatives from LRGs. Its main tasks are: coordination regarding domestic compliance with international HR treaties; drafting relevant periodic and *ad hoc* reports; monitoring progress in national law, in line with relevant commitments. CIDU regularly interacts with Parliament and relevant National Independent Authorities.

II. Implementation of recommendations from the previous cycles

4. Italian Constitution (1948), coeval with UDHR⁶, determines political framework for action and State's organization. Article 11 underpins Italy's participation in International Organizations ensuring peace and justice among Nations.⁷
5. By constitutional law 1/2022, Italian Constitution's Article 9 now envisages: "(..) *It protects the environment, biodiversity, and ecosystems, also in the interest of future generations. State law regulates the ways and forms of the protection of the animals*". Article 41 now refers to environment: "*The law shall provide for appropriate programmes and controls so that public and private-sector economic activity may be oriented and coordinated for social and environmental purposes*".
6. As for recommendations from previous Cycles, Italy would like to present the following observations.

A. International instruments and cooperation with international mechanisms and institutions

International instruments

7. Italy remains fully committed to UPR and UN treaty reporting system as well as to promoting human rights internationally.
8. Italy strongly reaffirms its engagement in respecting human rights and cooperating with HRC⁸ and all other relevant mechanisms.
9. Kampala amendments to Rome Statute were ratified by Law 202/2021.
10. Italy is in the process of recognizing UN CED⁹ Committee's competence to examine communications under Articles 31, 32 of ICCPED.¹⁰

Women, peace and security

11. By addressing WPS's pillars, Italy's NAP¹¹ on Women, Peace, and Security 2020-2024 considers all relevant international and regional standards and instances, including UN SDGs and CEDAW. Consisting of 4 Objectives, 38 Actions, indicators and progress reporting, it aims at strengthening: women's role in peace processes and all decision-making processes; a gender perspective in peace operations; women's empowerment, gender equality, protection of women's and girls' human rights in conflict and post-conflict; relevant communication, advocacy and training activities at all levels, while enhancing synergies with CSOs.

Arms transfer

12. By Law 105/2012, Italy revised its national control system of authorization on arms transfers. *UAMA*¹² was given the task to: centralize controls on the whole system of military weapons export; make the system more efficient; define the role of each party involved and clarify some procedures, while maintaining that any individual or private company must seek and receive authorization prior to an export or transfer of military items. Following 2012 legislation enhancement, export authorization procedures were also revised to increase controls and compliance with national and international law requirements, including principles established by ATT Treaty (see Articles 6, 7). Exchange of information between UAMA and relevant Departments of Italy's MAECI¹³ were set up, on a regular basis, accordingly. Thus, a list of countries to be considered with particular attention or at risk as an export destination for weapons is established. Each request towards a country included in the above list is submitted by UAMA to the Department concerned for further risk assessment. UAMA also considers the platform where EUMS¹⁴ share relevant data. The risk assessment analysis, conducted through procedures defined by Italian and EU legislation, also considers the risk of diversion pursuant to Article 11 (ATT). Italy is particularly aware that diversion mainly concerns SALW.¹⁵ To avoid diversion, Italian regulatory system places emphasis on preventive measures.

Development

13. Italy provided USD 6 billion (preliminary data) of ODA¹⁶ in 2023 (USD 5.6 billion, in constant terms) representing 0.27% of GNI¹⁷ – ranking 9th among DAC¹⁸ members in terms of ODA volume and 21st among DAC member countries when ODA is taken as a share of GNI. Italy stands out for its high share of gross bilateral ODA to fragile contexts (17% of Italy's gross bilateral ODA), the high volume of core multilateral ODA (USD 3.3 billion in 2022), and the high share of bilateral allocable aid for environment marker marked as a principal objective. Italy provided USD 4.1 billion of gross ODA to multilateral system. Of this, USD 3.3 billion was core multilateral ODA, while USD 818 million were non-core contributions earmarked for a given country, region, theme or purpose. Project-type funding earmarked for a specific theme and/or country accounted for 62.4% of Italy's non-core contributions, and 37.6% was programmatic funding (to pooled funds and specific-purpose programmes and funds).

14. In 2023, UN system received 16.5% of Italy's multilateral contributions, of which USD 467.6 million (68.4%) represented earmarked contributions. Out of a total volume of USD 683.6 million to the UN system, the top three UN recipients of Italy's support (core and earmarked contributions) were WFP (USD 86.2 million), UNHCR (USD 73.9 million) and UN (USD 61.8 million).

15. Against this background, of relevance is the "Mattei Plan", to be considered as "A bridge for common growth". It aims to new forms of partnerships with African countries, by envisaging specific strategies and indicating areas of intervention and priority actions with an integrated approach. The six pillars of the "Mattei Plan" include: Education and training; Agriculture; Health; Energy; Water; and Infrastructure.

16. Law 125/2014 indicates Italian development co-operation's primary objectives: poverty eradication; reducing inequalities; improving well-being and sustainable development; human rights, including gender equality, equal opportunities for everyone, democracy, and the rule of law; conflict prevention, peacebuilding, reconciliation, and stabilisation processes as well as institution-building. This Law also broadens partnerships, operationalises Italian development policy and creates more accountability and transparency. 2021-23 Three-Year Programming and Policy Planning Document establishes key priorities, focusing on 20 priority countries, 10 of which are LDCs.¹⁹ Italy aims to strengthen its role as a major player in addressing global challenges and promoting human, economic, social, and environmental development through its multilateral engagement. To this end, Italy has prioritised: strengthening health systems; supporting research, production and fair distribution of drugs, treatments, and vaccines to make them accessible to all; leadership in preserving cultural heritage; fighting tax crime.

17. The National Sustainable Development Strategy review, which includes National Action Plan on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, was approved in September 2023 by Inter-ministerial Committee on Ecological Transition. Accordingly, Italy presented its 2nd National Voluntary Review in July 2022, encompassing SDGs²⁰ localisation through 19 regional and 9 municipal agendas for sustainable development.²¹

B. National human rights framework

National Human Rights Institution

18. As for NHRIs²² establishment, under current Legislature of relevance are: Draft Law AC426, introduced in October 2022, on *Establishment of National Commission for the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights*; Bill AS303, presented in November 2022, on *Establishment of Guarantor for the protection of personal data and human rights through assignment to DPA²³ of the tasks of independent National Institution for the protection and promotion of human rights*; Draft constitutional law AC 580 introduced in November 2022, on *Establishment of National Authority for Human Rights*; Bill AS424 introduced in December 2022, on *Establishment of National Commission for Promotion and Protection of Fundamental Human Rights*; Bill AS505, introduced in January 2023, on *Provisions for Assigning to National Guarantor for the Protection of Personal Data (DPA) the Tasks of Independent National Institution for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights*. Discussions are ongoing within the Parliament.

Corruption

19. Legislative Decree 24/2023, implementing EU Directive 2019/1937 on whistleblowing, focuses on whistle-blower's protection by indicating: areas; employees entitled to report; protection measures; violations to be reported. It also regulates procedures for internal and external reports to ANAC²⁴ and confidentiality obligations for the reporter and person involved.

Post Covid-19 and National Recovery Resilience Plan

20. In post-pandemic dimension, National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) has been developed alongside three strategic axes, shared at European level (digitalization and innovation; ecological transition; social inclusion), including gender equality, being further articulated in all six missions: digitalization, innovation, competitiveness, culture, and tourism; green revolution and ecological transition; infrastructures for sustainable mobility; education and research; inclusion and cohesion; health. The combination of reforms and investments underlying this Plan is the result from intense coordination among Government, LRGs, and CSOs.

Justice system

21. NRRP²⁵ allocates resources for reforms and investments in efficiency and competitiveness in Italian justice system. Results to be pursued by June 2026 (so-called 'Plan Horizon') are: reduction of civil and criminal proceedings' duration; reduction of civil backlog limited to "on the merits judicial Offices"; trial-related digitalization; redevelopment of judicial real estate assets. The investment "MICI²⁶, Human Capital and the Trial Office" -one of the most relevant interventions of the NRRP-Justice- consists of an Extraordinary Recruitment Plan of various professionals for judicial offices and Supreme Court (Trial Office's officers and technical personnel). This Plan – as renegotiated following EU Council's approval of its revision as proposed by Ministry of Justice in December 2023 – envisages 10,000 staff's recruitment. Updated December 2023 data on relevant NRRP indicators shows positive trend: civil backlog reduction target, agreed for 2024, can be considered achieved or almost achieved (for Courts of Appeal, -97.1% the national average, compared to the target of -95%; for Tribunals, -85% the national average, compared to the target of -95%). Over the past three years, several measures have been taken to increase magistrates and administrative staff's rate.

Family policies

22. By Budget Law-2024, the Government invested around 1 billion Euros in measures to support families and birth-rate. Main measures include: an additional month of parental leave, compensated at 80%; total tax relief for mothers with at least two children for the term 2024-2026 (also known as “working mothers’ bonus”) – for women in permanent employment with three or more children, consisting in 100% reduction in social security contributions for dependents until child coming of age (within the annual limit of 3,000 Euros, re-scaled on a monthly basis); increase in “nursery voucher” – parents of children born in 2024, with another child under the age of ten and with ISEE²⁷ up to 40,000 Euros, will receive nursery bonus to pay the fees associated with nursery schools (3,600 Euros, per year). The Budget Law-2023 reinforces Universal Allowance (*Assegno Unico Universale per i figli a carico*): it is a financial support granted to families, for each dependent child up to the age of 21 (under certain conditions) and without age-limit for children with disabilities.

23. Family Policies Department²⁸ coordinates activities of National Observatory on Family.²⁹ It is currently drafting, through an inclusive process, the new National Plan for the Family, which will focus on: social welfare promotion; good practices’ enhancement at local authorities’ level; development of NGOs³⁰ networks. National Fund for Family Policies was established to promote measures to support families, birth, maternity and paternity, as well as to support active ageing, as part of the implementation strategy of the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Under the 5th Ministerial Conference on Ageing, held in Rome (June 2022), the Rome Ministerial Declaration “A Sustainable World for All Ages: Joining Forces for Solidarity and Equal Opportunities Throughout Life” was adopted, accordingly.

Resettlement program and humanitarian corridors

24. Italy’s migration strategy focuses on three main pillars: strengthening fight against human trafficking, smuggling and criminal organizations; strengthening and expanding legal and safe channels of migration; removing underlying causes. In 2023, MAECI³¹ financed UN agencies’ initiatives in main countries of origin and transit, with 33 million Euros (29 in African Continent). Activities focus on: capacity-building of local authorities in countering human smuggling and trafficking and in controlling territory and borders; organization of assisted voluntary repatriations of migrants stranded in transit countries; promotion of alternative opportunities to migration through training and job creation; implementation of information campaigns on irregular migration’s risks; development of legal channels. Projects amounting to 38 million Euros are being finalized for 2024. Migration Fund has allocated over 415 million to UN agencies since 2017; and from 2019, over 70 million, via Premium Fund.

25. Since 2015, Italy has been implementing entry channels for potential international protection beneficiaries (resettlements, humanitarian corridors and evacuations), allowing entry of about 10,000 refugees. This channel’s main feature is the direct involvement of CSOs in selecting beneficiaries and for reception process in Italy. Operations are governed by MoUs³² signed by MAECI, Ministry of Interior, CSOs and relevant International Organizations (e.g. IOM and UNHCR). Additional initiatives include: corridors for university students; corridors for under-age refugee students. The former was launched upon UNHCR’s initiative to reverse the marginal rate of access to university education among refugees (5%). To further develop innovative legal pathways, a complementary channel of entry into Italy was activated in 2021 with “*Pagella in Tasca*” project.

26. Law 176/2023, by amending Article 2 “Definitions” of Legislative Decree 25/2008, introduces letter *h-bis* to broaden and better define vulnerable persons: children; UAMs;³³ PwDs;³⁴ the elderly; women; single parents with children; victims of trafficking; persons suffering from serious illnesses or mental disorders; persons proven to have suffered torture, rape, or other serious forms of psychological, physical, or sexual violence; victims of genital mutilation. Vulnerabilities’ list is in line with EU and national legislation and concerns persons with special needs, both in terms of reception and procedures for the application’s examination. In June 2023, Handbook for detection, referral and taking care of migrants with vulnerabilities was published, providing guidance on procedures at all reception stages, besides operational instructions –as developed within Vulnerability WG,³⁵ chaired by

Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration-Ministry of Interior, with participation of MoH,³⁶ INMP,³⁷ Public Security Department, UNHCR, UNICEF, EUAA, Frontex, Europol, Coast Guard, Italian Red Cross, and other International Organizations.

27. In compliance with the principle of non-refoulement, Territorial Commissions³⁸ on International Protection may recognize protection – complementary to international protection – called “special protection”, being granted when it is not possible, under specific conditions, to recognize international protection status.

C. Cross-cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination

28. Over time, UNAR³⁹ has been reinforced and adequately resourced to cover full range of discriminatory acts. Since the outset, UNAR has adopted an inter-institutional multi-stakeholder approach aimed to promoting constructive dialogue at the national, regional, local levels and with CSOs. UNAR has continued to upgrade systematic data collection to record and monitor discrimination, besides enhancing efforts in education, training, awareness-raising campaigns, to prevent stigmatization and negative stereotypes against members of vulnerable groups (i.e. ethnic, religious, and other minorities), and programs on promotion of equal opportunities and against hate speech. Coordination efforts by UNAR and competent institutional bodies were particularly strengthened under EU projects, including “C.O.N.T.R.O.”, implemented between 2019–2020, and “REA.SON – REAct in the Struggle against ONline hate speech”, aimed to strengthening fight against all forms of hate crime and incitement to hatred, including online, by broad-based partnerships (including Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior-OSCAD, AGCOM, then Ministry of Education and Research (acronym, MIUR), National Association of Italian Municipalities (acronym in Italian, ANCI), Milan Municipality, academia, and CSOs). UNAR is also strongly engaged in the establishment of a network of Centers for victims of violence based on sexual orientation nationwide (4 million Euros-annual budget).⁴⁰ Other awareness-raising and training activities are regularly organized during the yearly Week against Racism and during international days’ celebrations (e.g. International Roma Day, IDAHOT). All above measures have been recently further enforced and “structured”, through comprehensive strategies, such as LGBT+ National Strategy, 2022-2025, National Strategy on Inclusion, Equality and Participation of Roma and Sinti, 2021-2030.

29. Italy advances in elaborating a new NAP against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, including concrete measures to address racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against ethnic minorities and migrant communities; and to promote intercultural understanding and diversity. This will also include measures addressing issues related to Afro-descendants. Numerous Associations enrolled in UNAR’s Register, besides research Centres and university experts, were involved in its elaboration. UNAR, in defining strategic policy documents and fostering actions to promote equality and combat discrimination, is following a multi-agency approach, besides involving communities concerned. Interesting multilevel, multi-stakeholder governance models include: Roma Platform with Roma and pro-Roma Associations; and structured consultations with LGBT+ NGOs.

30. OSCAD,⁴¹ established at Ministry of Interior, is tasked with improving the action particularly of *Polizia di Stato* and *Arma dei Carabinieri*, to prevent and combat hate crimes. To strengthen OSCAD’s activities and facilitate closer contacts with the territory, in 2021 a Circular of the Chief of Police established provincial OSCAD contact points to further address under-reporting: OSCAD’s experts analyse “informal” reports from victims, witnesses and NGOs and, where appropriate, initiate targeted interventions to be locally implemented by Police or *Carabinieri*. By Circular of the Chief of Police, from July 2023 OSCAD has extended its competences to the protection and promotion of human rights.

31. Training has always been a key component of OSCAD’s activity. Only through training and awareness-raising, law enforcement competence can be reinforced effectively. As of June 2024, 12,643 officers were trained via in-person workshops, directly organised by OSCAD Secretariat; 19,382 officers were trained in person by trainers trained by OSCAD

Secretariat; 28,554 officers were trained through online training modules, totalling 60,579 trained officers. In February 2023, OSCAD joined *Combating Hate Speech in Sport* project, in cooperation with Sport Department⁴², by providing technical assistance to public authorities of EU/CoE Member States and other stakeholders in the sport sector, to develop relevant comprehensive strategies: Guidelines were elaborated; and a preparatory document on a common campaign against hate speech in sport was drafted for implementation in six European countries, including Italy.

32. From 2022, OSCAD and National Observatory on Sports Events-Department of Public Security⁴³ have been collaborating on data and information exchange to prevent and combat discrimination in sport. Discriminatory episodes (choirs, banners, gestures, verses, verbal insults, physical assaults, threats), detected during sporting events, are communicated to above Observatories by Police's territorial offices highlighting discriminatory motive and other essential elements - to analyse the case, including behaviour, perpetrator, victim, and a brief fact's description. In May 2022, OSCAD and Postal Police performed an articulated communication campaign at Turin Eurovision Song Contest. Following agreement with RAI,⁴⁴ several clips were made with competing artists, for awareness-raising about hatred, including online, and discrimination (relating to race, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability). In May 2024, CIP⁴⁵ and OSCAD signed an MoU to promote sport values as a means of combating all forms of discrimination, particularly those related to disability. During Paris-2024 Paralympic Games, they realized a relevant communication campaign with follow-ups in fall 2024, under *Rights and inclusion against all discrimination*-project.

Environment, business and human rights

33. National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change, approved by the Minister of Environment and Energy Security by Decree of 21 December 2023, envisages implementation of measures to raise awareness and promote training to enhance people's resilience to local risks while understanding causes and aggravating factors from climate change. This Plan includes a section on socioeconomic impact of climate change on women, PwDs, the elderly, youth. ISPRA⁴⁶ established National Platform on Climate Change Adaptation⁴⁷ to facilitate data and information exchange among institutional stakeholders, with focus on citizens and climate change adaptation. Since 2021, "Pilot Program for Urban Climate Change Adaptation" has sought to enhance resilience of urban areas vulnerable to climate change risks, including heat waves, extreme rainfall, drought. This Program includes measures to enhance local knowledge, develop municipal adaptation's planning tools, awareness-raising, training and participation of practitioners and stakeholders (including youth).

34. Under 2022-National Strategy for Sustainable Development, in accordance with European decarbonisation goals, Italy works to promote renewable energy spread and energy efficiency improvement: Italy aims to achieve 40.5% gross final energy consumption target from renewable sources by 2030. As for energy efficiency and tax deduction for energy requalification of buildings, National Energy Efficiency Fund was established to provide low-interest or government-guaranteed financing for energy efficiency interventions as implemented by companies and Public Administration. Sustainable management of natural resources, implementing integrated water resources management, maximising water efficiency and adjusting withdrawals to water scarcity are shaped along NRRP's actions, specifically Mission 2 (Green Revolution and Ecological Transition) – Measure C4 (Protection of Land and Water Resources).

35. Italy is committed to UNGPs⁴⁸ on Business and Human Rights through measures provided in its 2nd BHR NAP 2021-2026 according to a global vision on human rights, sustainable development, democracy and rule of law, in line with proactive engagement in relation to 2030 Agenda and UNGPs 10+ project. This NAP encompasses a broad practical approach concerning several areas for action: environment, health, decent work and HRDs⁴⁹, also under NRRP, for Covid-19 recovery, technology, and AI⁵⁰ – including their impact on human rights, besides innovative issues related to cultural companies and human rights. It also turns around the need for improving action on human rights issues and the most vulnerable, including PwDs, LGBTIQ+, persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, older persons – by promoting participation in business activities. This NAP incorporated

recommendations from UPR Cycle 3. Its implementation is under monitoring through performance indicators aimed to guide legislative, regulatory, administrative and programmatic action.

36. Italy promotes corporate sustainability, in line with *inter alia* Directive (EU) 2022/2464 on sustainability reporting, Directive (EU) 2024/1760 on due diligence, and forthcoming EU regulation prohibiting the commerce of goods made by using forced labour; and, *inter alia*, by advancing OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct and Guides on due diligence.

D. Civil and political rights

Administration and access to justice

37. Of relevance are the 2022 reforms of: civil trial (Legislative Decree 149); criminal trial (Legislative Decree 150); and Trial Office regulation (Legislative Decree 151). By the former, the civil trial of cognition, the enforcement trial, special proceedings and alternative dispute resolution instruments were innovated, according to “simplifying, speeding-up and rationalizing civil trial”, while always respecting cross-examination guarantee. This Decree intervenes on: enhancing *inter alia* mediation and assisted negotiation; arbitration revision; modifying division of competences and structures of judicial bodies –through increasing justice of peace’s competences; judge’s obligation to prepare trial calendar at first hearing; more generally, on telematic civil trial, made mandatory for all party’s acts and judge’s orders.

38. Of importance is the Services Gateway on Ministry of Justice’s website providing information on procedures and software applications to facilitate 'justice system' usability. Worthy of mention is the ongoing design of the Portal for Victims of Crime, aimed to supporting victims in raising awareness of their rights and identifying the most appropriate ways to access justice. By Decree 150, action is taken for greater efficiency of criminal trial and justice system, with a view to full implementation of constitutional, conventional, EU principles and NRRP, which provides for 25% reduction by 2026 in average duration of criminal trial, at three levels of adjudication. Interventions concern: digital and telematic transition of criminal trial; interventions on penalty system, which diversifies and makes penalties more effective besides encouraging early definition of proceedings through alternative rites; interventions in restorative justice area, which allows victim, offender and others in the community to freely, consensually, actively and voluntarily participate in the resolution of issues arising from the offence - with help from trained impartial mediators. In May 2024, Directive (EU) 2024/1385 *on combating violence against women and domestic violence*, devoting Chapter 3 to “*protection of victims and access to justice*”, was published.

39. On access to justice, of relevance are the initiatives put in place for promoting general forms of assistance to victims of crime (of any type), in line with Directive 2012/29/EU. In 2023, Italian Regions were invited to develop information and assistance pathways for victims by enhancing activities on information to victims: 16 financing agreements were finalized by Ministry of Justice; many Regions were involved, for a total of 1,553,600.00 Euros. Last public notice aims to establishing an integrated services’ network, including creation and/or strengthening of information desks and multidisciplinary staff to help users/victims, according to their “right to understand and be understood”. Central is the establishment or strengthening of first access points locally as a free, confidential, professional listening and reception space, to provide information, assistance and support to victims, in partnership with stakeholders (judicial offices, other public and/or third sector bodies). The training of personnel in charge of assisting and interacting with crime’s victims and initiatives to raise awareness targeting the whole community also play a crucial role for individual and collective empowerment. Courses are made available on preventing and combating gender-based/domestic violence, hate crimes, discriminatory phenomena and children protection.⁵¹ Article 5 of Law 69/2019 (so-called Red Code) -also in light of Law 168/2023 (so-called Enhanced Red Code⁵²) – envisages mandatory training: it aims to State Police, *Carabinieri* and Prison Police personnel performing public security and judicial

police functions in relation to prevention and prosecution of crimes of domestic and gender-based violence, including prison treatment of the convicted.

Right to life, liberty and security of person

40. By Law 112/2024, in force since August 10, 2024, the Ministry of Justice has been strengthening the psychological care network for those in prison. Recruitment of specialized personnel to meet the growing needs among the prison population continues. For the first time, the headcount of legal-pedagogical officers of about 1,100 was fully filled. For 2024, resources for psychological care services will be about 14 million Euros. An extraordinary Commissioner has been introduced, with the task of promptly implementing national plan of interventions to increase detention places and new housing for prison police personnel. It is also planned to increase the number of Prison Police through 1,000 extra-hires, to be added to 1,000 already arranged last year, besides other administrative and organizational measures. Provision has been made for accelerating timeframe for admission to REMS.⁵³

Prohibition of slavery and trafficking

41. Legislative Decree 24/2014 stipulates that DEO⁵⁴ coordinates, monitors and evaluates the results of prevention, law enforcement, social protection policies for victims of trafficking. This Decree also envisages a National Anti-Trafficking Plan according to multi-level governmental approach, as adopted in October 2022; the merging of two previous interventions pathways into a Consolidated Programme of Outreach, Assistance, Social Integration for Victims of Trafficking; mandatory training for all actors concerned; compensation and support mechanisms for victims. In 2021, Veneto Region took over National Anti-Trafficking Line, following cooperation agreement with DEO. For 2024–2026, cooperation agreement with Veneto Region regarding SIRIT⁵⁵ management was renewed. SIRIT allows to fulfil data collection and analysis functions, as required by EU Directive 36/2011. Since adoption of the 2014 Consolidated Programme, DEO has prepared calls for tenders to implement social assistance and integration programmes. Currently, 21 projects are implemented nationwide, through public-private partnership involving local authorities and NGOs, which constitutes the national anti-trafficking network system. Budget allocated for projects between October 2022-February 2024 amounts to 27.2 million Euros; 28.8 million Euros more, for the call launched in March 2024. As for the fund for anti-trafficking measures, the Government envisaged an increase of 2 million Euros for 2023 and 7 million Euros annually, starting from 2024.

42. The above-mentioned multi-agency, multi-level Plan, based on EU Strategy 2021-2025, aims to defining multiannual intervention strategies for preventing and combating trafficking, by: awareness-raising; social prevention actions; social integration of victims. It also focuses on ethnic and religious minorities, victims of trafficking with physical and psychological disabilities, LGBTIQ+ individuals, besides including the updated National Referral Mechanism. SOPs⁵⁶ were also updated, to ensure comprehensive ‘step-by-step’ assistance to trafficked persons.

Caporalato

43. The three-year Plan to tackle labor exploitation and unlawful recruitment in agriculture 2020–2022 is the result of coordinated action across institutional actors, domestically and locally. The Committee – established in December 2018 and chaired by MoLSP⁵⁷ is the national coordination body responsible for planning and monitoring policy interventions. Since Plan’s approval in 2020, MoLSP has promoted numerous initiatives, including communication and awareness-raising activities. Financed by EU and national resources, projects have facilitated: awareness-raising about labor exploitation; synergies; structured multi-agency networks, regionally and locally. Thanks to experience gained with the above Plan and by relevant research, projects’ scope has been extended to all labor sectors. The current projects, promoted under 2021-2027 programming, are implemented by Regions, INL⁵⁸ and ANCI.⁵⁹ Of relevance is the one-stop shops activation, i.e. territorial garrisons in strategic areas to intercept potential victims of labor exploitation where multidisciplinary teams, including health and social workers, housing placement operators, linguistic-cultural mediators, and lawyers, operate. An interinstitutional Help Desk against

labor exploitation and a multichannel service (including toll-free number, an integrated multi-language website, and presence in major social networks) aimed at orienting and informing third-country nationals, labor exploitation victims or potential victims, are in place. To bring information to places concerned, numerous outreach activities have been conducted. Individualized job placement pathways for victims of exploitation are realized. Of relevance is the prevention and surveillance carried out thanks to multi-agency inspection TFs⁶⁰ composed of Labor Inspectors and intercultural mediators from IOM. This initiative (*A.L.T. Caporalato D.U.E.*), financed by MoLSP through National Fund for Migration Policies, also includes meaningful investments to enhance inspection staff and cultural mediators' skills; awareness-raising actions. Between 2020-March 2024, INL inspected 5,795 companies with IOM's cooperation, checking 35,323 work positions, of which 8,543 (or 24%) were found to be irregular; 3,366 workers were found to be employed illegally (39% of the irregular workers); and 769 were found to be victims of forced labor and labor exploitation, resulting in 157 offenders being referred to judicial authorities. 976 measures were adopted to suspend business activities for undeclared work or health and safety irregularities. To fight against *Caporalato* and labor exploitation, INL also focuses on human trafficking. In June 2023 INL extended cooperation protocol with IOM, by which multilingual information desks at seven territorial offices have been established with labor inspectors and IOM cultural mediators dedicated to receiving, in a protected manner, any complaints of irregularities at work. Law-Decree 63/2024, as converted with amendments by Law 10/2024, establishes, at MoLSP, the *Information System to combat caporalato in agriculture*, a "tool for sharing information between State Administrations and Regions, including for the purposes of combating undeclared labour in general".

44. In October 2021, *Conferenza Unificata*⁶¹ approved "National Guidelines for identification, protection and assistance to victims of labor exploitation in agriculture", defining minimum standards and general principles for National Referral Mechanism concerning labor exploitation in agriculture. Law-Decree 19/2024 provides for the appointment of an extraordinary Commissioner tasked with housing solutions for workers in the agriculture sector, in line with relevant NRRP measures (200 million Euros). On March 21, 2024, *Conferenza Unificata* adopted Guidelines for nationwide minimum housing standards as part of "National Plan for Combating Undeclared Work (2022-2025)", adopted by MoLSP's Ministerial Decree 221/2022. Besides legislation on *Caporalato* (including the above Three-year Plan extended until September 2025), Legislative Decree 198/2021 on unfair commercial practices envisages good commercial practices' dissemination as an essential component of the integrated strategy to regulate agricultural market. As at May 2024, 6,529 companies were registered in the dedicated network.

45. New Common Agricultural Policy introduces social conditionality: its implementation at EU level will occur in 2025, while Inter-ministerial Decree 664304/2022 defines rules for domestic application of social conditionality from January 2023 onwards.

E. Economic, social, and cultural rights

Poverty

46. Law-Decree 48/2023, converted with amendments by Law 85/2023, introduces, as of 1 January 2024, Inclusion Allowance (in Italian, ADI) benefit to be granted, upon request, to meet inclusion needs of households with members: with disabilities; aged 60 or over; in "disadvantaged conditions"; children.

47. ADI allowance increases with household's size and according to an equivalence scale that assigns limited increases in income's threshold as the number of household's members included in eligibility categories or with care responsibilities increases (maximum threshold is 13,800 Euros). Regardless of household size, ADI recipients receive additional resources up to 280 Euros per month to cover rent. ADI is compatible with employment or other benefits. For example, ADI recipients are automatically entitled to water, gas, and energy bonuses, allowing to pay lower tariffs. ADI recipients with children are entitled to 'Universal Single Allowance'. This Decree also introduces active inclusion programme, entitled

'Support for Training and Work' (in Italian, SFL), for individuals aged 18-59 whose households are not covered by ADI. The combination of the two above actions, in line with Target 1.3 of UN 2030 Agenda, represents a new approach towards adequate income support to fragile households, besides reintegration into labour market, to ultimately overcome poverty and social exclusion.

48. NRRP outlines initiatives for reforming Active Labour Market Policies, including: "National Programme for Workers' Guaranteed Employability", for common services framework; 'New Skills Fund', to financially support companies for reskilling their workers and reorganising production processes; and a dual system to matching education and training with labour market.

49. In July 2021, Social Protection and Inclusion Network approved new National Plan of Interventions and Social Services, endorsing National Social Plan, 2021-2023 and Plan for Combating Poverty, 2021-2023, as complemented by National Plan for non-self-sufficiency, 2022-2024: the overall objective of these Plans is to implement *LEPs*,⁶² including improved professional social service, prevention of family separation, income support, social-work support. Their implementation goes through NRRP-related investments. Ministerial Decree 123 of July 19, 2024, established the Poverty Observatory.

Right to adequate housing

50. Under NRRP,⁶³ by Decree 5/2022 of Director General for Poverty Alleviation and Social Planning, Public Notice 1/2022 was issued to promote social inclusion of vulnerable persons, such as the non-self-sufficient elderly, the homeless, PwDs.⁶⁴ About 600 *Territorial Social Areas* were called to design interventions in compliance with Guidelines for combating severe adult marginalization. Two investment lines have been activated: *Housing first; Centri di Posta*.⁶⁵ The former provides for temporary wide-ranging housing assistance up to 24 months, for individuals or small groups of individuals, or for families in extreme difficulty who cannot immediately access public housing, and financing supports housing renovation, for a minimum of 2 flats and involvement of minimum 10-15 beneficiaries per project – as implemented in various cities, including Turin, Bologna, Palermo, Bari. The latter envisages the opening of Post Stations for fight against poverty. Presently, all project proposals submitted have been approved, for a total of 256 + 234 projects.

Active ageing

51. Italian commitment to policies in support of older people has recently been confirmed by Law 33/2023 and Legislative Decree 29/2024. The aim is to overcome a solely welfare-based approach towards a vision of the elderly as a resource and protagonists of social life, to encourage active participation and to promote policies for active ageing and positive interaction between generations. Decree 29 entrusts Family Policies Department with primary role in active ageing policies, including contribution to elaborate National Plan for Active Ageing.

Right to health

52. National Health Service's main objective today is to promote a new care model, which considers one's own home as the first place of care, especially for chronic and fragile patients, through proximity networks, intermediate structures, and telemedicine for territorial healthcare. Among measures, as a way of examples, in 2022, the first National Health Equity Program was approved under Italian Partnership Agreement on Programming Cohesion Policy 2021-2027, managed by MoH.⁶⁶ This Program aims to strengthening health services and makes access more equitable in seven Regions where there is the least satisfaction with healthcare standards. Program's areas are: combating health poverty; increasing oncology screening coverage; strengthening mental health-related services and gender-sensitive diagnostic-therapeutic pathways.

Right to education

53. The Integrated System of Education guarantees all girls and boys, from birth to the age of 6, to develop their potential for relationships, autonomy, creativity and learning and

to overcome inequalities and territorial, economic, ethnic and cultural barriers (Legislative Decree 65/2017). Ministerial Decree 334/2021 introduced Pedagogical Guidelines on the age group 0-6 integrated system. Under NRRP, a dedicated action focuses on “Plan for Kindergartens, Preschools, Early Childhood Education and Care Services”, for over 3 billion Euros.

54. By Decree 240/2023, a national pilot project to establish technological-professional educational path will be activated from the current school year, shaping integrated training offer, by further synergies with businesses, to enhance students’ talent while countering school drop-out.

55. Human rights teaching, compulsory from kindergarten, is provided according to Guidelines on Civic Education. Of relevance are the “Guidelines for teaching civic education⁶⁷”, dated September 2024.

56. National Observatory for Foreign Pupils’ Integration and Intercultural Education is a consultative body mandated to proposals and problem-solving for a multicultural school. FAMI⁶⁸ NP⁶⁹ 2021-2027 – Public Notice, “Interventions to Strengthen School Integration of Pupils and Students from Third Countries, 2023-2026” and “National Project for RSC⁷⁰ Children Inclusion, NP 2021-2027” are under implementation, to combat school drop-out and to improve *inter alia* school inclusion and access to social and health services. Relevant inclusion projects have been also implemented by 24 Municipalities.

57. The DAE⁷¹ launched in 2023 several paths of in-depth study, identifying a range of initiatives, to delve into plurilingualism in Europe and Italy,⁷² including enhancement of Italian language and protection and promotion of regional and minority languages.

F. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

58. As for women’s advancement, over last years, Italy has adopted concrete policies to strengthen gender mainstreaming in all actions and measures, including by integrating a gender perspective throughout NRRP.⁷³ Gender equality is a cross-cutting priority in this framework with significant resources – through reforms, education, and investments: NRRP-related reform (*MICI-110*)⁷⁴ provides that, by Budget Law for 2024, an information document with reclassification of those expenditures in State Budget, promoting gender equality jointly with those concerning environment-related expenditures, will be provided to Parliament. By Law-Decree 13/2023, a specific identification process of expenditures with an impact on gender was initiated. Budget Law-2024 contains several novelties in equal opportunities and fight against GBV⁷⁵ areas. It allocates 141 million Euros, for relevant DEO’s⁷⁶ interventions, of which over 96 million Euros are dedicated to fight against GBV; approximately 20 million Euros are dedicated to fight against human trafficking; and 18.5 million Euros are intended for expenditure on interventions to promote equal opportunities, training of housewives and househusbands, National Strategy for Gender Equality implementation.

59. Among key measures, of relevance are: National Strategy for gender equality, 2021-2026; tax relief to hire women and mother workers; increase the Guarantee Fund for SMEs⁷⁷ dedicated to women’s businesses; Gender Equality Certification System; parental leave’s enhancement; and increased funding to implement initiatives encouraging girls to undertake STEM.⁷⁸

60. Certification of Gender Equality in Business is a measure financed by NRRP and implemented by DEO, to encourage gender equality policies and to improve women’s access to labor market; leadership positions; work-life balance. Gender Equality Certification System also aims to ensuring better work’s quality for women, by promoting transparency of work processes in companies; reducing gender pay gap; increasing opportunities within the company; protecting maternity. Certification takes place on a voluntary basis. Gender Equality Certification has been supplemented by Maternity-friendly Enterprises Code. To date, 85 enterprises have adhered to it.

61. DEO also promotes “Methods and Evaluation Tools for Gender Mainstreaming”, to contribute to translate gender mainstreaming in every phase of the programming cycles. Among numerous outputs, relevant is the elaboration of a “Toolkit for the creation and implementation of gender budgeting”, aimed to supporting public administrations that intend to develop their own gender reporting by a methodology inspired by State’s General Accounting Office.

62. The special section “PCM⁷⁹ – DEO” of the Central Guarantee Fund for SMEs, established in 2013, was refinanced in 2022 with 6.5 million Euros, bringing the Fund’s capacity to 56 million Euros.

63. By Decree 184/2023, MIM⁸⁰ adopted “Guidelines for STEM disciplines” implementing the reform included in NRRP: it contributes to achieve the objectives of ‘New Skills and New Languages’ investment, by developing and strengthening STEM, digital and innovation skills in all school cycles and by boosting enrolment in tertiary STEM, particularly of women.

64. As for women’s participation in political and public life, percentage of Italian women elected at European, national, regional, and local level has increased in recent decades, leading our country to the election in 2022 of the first woman to President of Ministers’ Council and the appointment of a woman as representative of the main opposition’s political party. In the Government, women hold almost 30% of top positions as Minister, Deputy Minister, and Undersecretary – a percentage not far from EU average, standing at 34%. Thanks also to the implementation of transitional rules for the promotion of equal access to administrative and supervisory bodies of companies listed on regulated markets, according to 2023 CONSOB⁸¹ data, Italy scores 43% of women directors and 41% of women being members of supervisory bodies.

65. As for discrimination against women, amendment by Law 162/2021 to Article 25 of Code on Equal Opportunities between Men and Women broadens discrimination’s scope.

66. Many measures have been adopted to improve prevention; fight against GBV, including victims’ protection; ensure prosecution of perpetrators; work with relevant CSOs locally; increase economic resources. National Strategic Plan on Male Violence against Women 2021-2023 continues to apply until the new Plan, currently being drafted, is adopted.

67. Specific attention is paid to early detection of violence, including economic violence, and to economic support for survivors. Italy has adopted new measures to ensure systematic collection and analysis of statistical data from different Public Administrations. Data is systematically updated on ISTAT⁸²-DEO Informative system.⁸³

68. Several legislative measures were adopted:

- Law 53/2022 is aimed at systematic flow of information and data on VAW;⁸⁴
- By Legislative Decree 149/2022, numerous interventions enhance protection at a proceedings-civil law level, also with respect to secondary victimization;
- Law-Decree 20/2023, converted with modifications by Law 50/2023, adds crime of coercion or induction to marriage, envisaged by Article 558-bis of Criminal Code, to those cases in which Quaestor, with favorable opinion by judicial authority, or upon latter's proposal, grants residency permit to allow victim to escape violence;
- Law 168/2023, on “Provisions for combating violence against women and domestic violence”, in force since December 2023, *inter alia* strengthens measures concerning warning (*ammonimento*), information made available to victims and preventive measures, besides provisions on time-limits to assess pre-trial requirements, reinforcing precautionary measures and electronic tag use; communication obligations; amendments to rules on compensation for victims of violent intentional crimes; regulation concerning bodies organizing rehabilitation programs for offenders.

69. To strengthen actions to combat VAW, Ministry of Justice established “Permanent Observatory on the effectiveness of rules on gender-based and domestic violence”⁸⁵. National Guidelines for Health and Hospital Authorities on rescue and socio-health care for women

victims of violence annexed to DPCM⁸⁶ of 24 November 2017 provide guidance on adequate and integrated intervention in the treatment of physical and psychological consequences that male violence causes to women's health.

70. Freedom Income Measure was made structural and refinanced with 10 million Euros by Law 213/2023. To promote financial autonomy as a tool for preventing and combating economic violence, Article 105-bis of Legislative Decree 34/2020 establishes "Fund on freedom income for women victims of violence", for women victims and survivors supported by Anti-Violence Centers (in Italian, CAV⁸⁷). For 2020–2023, 13,850,000 Euros were transferred to INPS⁸⁸ for the provision of Freedom Income, besides Regions using their own resources. Budget Law-2024 provides for Fund's increase. As for Freedom Microcredit project, on 3 December 2020 an MoU – envisaging an *ad hoc* Fund amounting to 3 million Euros from DEO budget – was signed by Minister for Equal Opportunities, Italian Banking Association, Italian Federation of Banks of cooperative credit and rural banks, National Microcredit Institution, and Italian Caritas. This is a support measure for economic empowerment of women victims of violence facilitating access to: business-related microcredit; social microcredit. As for measures to empower women victims of violence taken care by Regions, Ministerial Decree of 16 November 2023 provides resources from "Fund for policies relating to rights and equal opportunities", amounting to 9,000,000.00 Euros, for initiatives aimed at supporting women's empowerment; work's reintegration; economic and social support, including for housing. Another tool concerns social security exemption when hiring women victims of violence: resources have been allocated for 2024–2028 to private employers who, in the period 2024–2026, will hire unemployed women victims of violence and Freedom Income beneficiaries: 100% exemption from social security contributions payment is envisaged. In the event of job contract conversion into a permanent one, exemption is extended.

71. Jointly with ISTAT⁸⁹ and *Differenza Donna* NGO, DEO finalized a mapping exercise to update information on CAV and Shelter Houses, nationwide. In March 2023, "1522 Mapping" was published, accordingly. Last September 4, 2024, latest data concerning the second semester 2024 was published. An important pillar of the protection system (with significant effects on prevention) is the public utility service under the anti-violence toll-free number 1522. In recent months, an ever-increasing number of women have turned to 1522. In December 2023, an integrated communication plan was prepared to disseminate, through communication campaigns, regulatory tools and operational interventions in support of victims.

72. Article 5 (National strategic plan on violence against women and domestic violence) and Article 5-bis (Actions for anti-violence centers and shelters) of Legislative Decree 93/2013 constitute the reference regulatory framework for preventing and combating male violence against women and domestic violence. Following amendments by Budget Law-2022 to above Article 5, adoption of a national strategic Plan on violence against women and domestic violence was envisaged upon *Conferenza Unificata*'s⁹⁰ opinion: at least, every three years; with regular allocation of resources, for 5 million Euros per year, starting from 2022. These resources were further increased by Budget Law-2023 from 5 to 15 million Euros, per year.

73. Budget Law-2024 intervened significantly on preventing and combating male violence against women and domestic violence, by allocating, for the years 2024, 2025 and 2026, 20 million Euros for construction/purchase of buildings to be used as shelters and 5 million Euros for CAVs construction. To ensure that training initiatives on combating violence against women and domestic violence are continuous and permanent, the Budget Law also allocates 3 million Euros annually starting from 2024. For interventions aimed at perpetrators of violence rehabilitation, the Fund has been increased by 4 million Euros, for each of the years 2024, 2025, and 2026, besides 1 million Euros allocated since 2020.

Persons with disabilities

74. The paradigm shift by Law 227/2021, and its implementing decrees, focuses on promoting PwDs⁹¹ independence and autonomy. The creation of a delegated political authority on disability reaffirms disability mainstreaming. Protection of rights, expectations and autonomy is also pursued following: National Guarantor of the Rights of PwDs'

establishment; upgrade of public services for inclusion and accessibility; implementation of customised participatory individual life projects. As for financial resources, Budget Law-2023 establishes, as of January 1, 2024, the Single Fund for PwDs Inclusion, with 689,454,321.00 Euros for 2024 and 231,807,485.00 Euros annually, from 2025.

75. Italy is committed to promoting removal of barriers to communication: by Legislative Decree 82/2022, to guarantee accessibility standards currently in force at EU level; by Article 34-ter of Law-Decree 41/2021, to recognise Italian sign language (in Italian, LIS) and Italian tactile sign language (in Italian, LIST). By Law-Decree 71/2024, converted with modifications by Law 106/2024, Italy has allocated resources for the transportation of secondary school students with disabilities (14,460,000.00 Euros for 2024; 213,462,224.00 Euros for 2025; 158,427,484.00 Euros for 2026; and 108,427,884.00 Euros for 2027), besides envisaging urgent measures to increase special needs teachers; guarantee their continuity of posts; promote teachers' training. A new national model of the Individualized Education Plan was adopted in 2023,⁹² also providing adequate support measures for all students with disabilities and for all school cycles. It draws on the concept of WHO-ICF biopsychosocial perspective, revising the condition of disability beyond the diagnosis and considering factors, such as obstacles/barriers of different types that limit the full expression of individual's potential. National Observatory on Persons with Disabilities' Condition at PCM,⁹³ by December 2024, will adopt a three-year plan to promote PwDs' rights and integration. Moreover, Permanent Observatory for School Inclusion is established at MIM.⁹⁴ From 2021/2022 school year, 10 million Euros have been allocated to implement actions supporting and promoting school inclusion, including the purchase of technical equipment, teaching aids and services to best receive pupils with certified disabilities. By Ministerial Decree 43/2022, MoLSP⁹⁵ adopted Guidelines on targeted employment, on the assumption that the working environment is crucial for PwDs' social inclusion and independent living projects. *Inter alia*, systematic collection of good practices about work inclusion has been planned through a special IT platform.

Children

76. The National Observatory for Childhood and Adolescence⁹⁶ – a collegial body renewed every three years, chaired by Minister delegated for the Family and composed of all relevant public institutions and social bodies – is tasked with drafting every two years a relevant NAP⁹⁷ which identifies priority interventions (the new one is under finalisation). It also elaborates biennial Report monitoring children's rights advancement, nationwide. Various legislative interventions have strengthened the above Observatory and Family Policies Department. In March 2022, Italy adopted National Child Guarantee Action Plan, drafted in accordance with EU Recommendation 2021/1004 establishing European Child Guarantee, to prevent poverty, social exclusion risks and to intervene when minors already live in a situation of disadvantage. Developed in collaboration with the above National Observatory and contribution from Youth Council, this long-term Plan⁹⁸ sets objectives for planning, innovation, and intervention. In 2017, Italy adopted Law 71 to prevent and combat cyberbullying⁹⁹. As recently amended, it stipulates that the above Department shall develop awareness-raising campaigns to prevent cyberbullying, in cooperation with AGCOM¹⁰⁰ and DPA.¹⁰¹ Since 2019, Family Policies Department has been implementing these campaigns through television, radio channels, and main social media, to address as many children and adolescents as possible. During the Safer Internet Day-2024, this Department published a booklet on cyberbullying, consequences, and implications on children's psychophysical well-being. Law 159/2023 embodies strong commitment to protect the digital well-being of children and adolescents. Central to this measure, besides age verification, is the implementation of comprehensive parental control applications on electronic communication devices. Service providers shall offer these applications at no extra cost seamlessly. Moreover, manufacturers are required to ensure that their devices inherently support these applications. AGCOM is mandated to develop technical and procedural guidelines for effective age verification. Family Policies Department is entrusted with key responsibilities, including developing comprehensive guidelines for users.

Statelessness

77. Ministry of Interior signed an MoU with National Asylum Commission and UNHCR for stable collaboration to strengthen identification of stateless persons, through instruments linking international protection procedure and statelessness status determination. Regarding documentation required for statelessness recognition, Ministry of Interior has adopted initiatives to simplify relevant administrative procedure, including solutions to make documentation to be submitted by applicants less burdensome.

Minorities

78. Under National RSC¹⁰² Strategy, 2021-2030, of importance are ISTAT,¹⁰³ UNAR¹⁰⁴ and ANCI¹⁰⁵ activities. These bodies, with the most representative RSC Associations and cooperation from institutions concerned, contribute to produce relevant information and data. Efforts continue in taking necessary measures to protect economic, social, and cultural rights of minority groups, such as Roma and Sinti. Over last years, forced eviction has been significantly reduced. Recent data confirms progressive reduction of presences in settlements, owing to *inter alia* steady increase in individuals moving towards stable and integrated housing.

79. A specific survey from Ministry of Interior on housing and housing transition was released in early 2024. Attention is paid to statelessness: crucial is the analysis, particularly of residence irregularities, to solve *de facto* statelessness and ensure regularisation. Prevention of discrimination against Roma and Sinti also entails lasting cultural change, promoted through culture enhancement. Under International Roma Day, UNAR established National Week for Roma culture promotion and fight against antigypsyism, besides financing numerous relevant NGOs-led projects.

Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

80. The non-refoulement principle is established by Italian law and is fully implemented in practice. When lacking international protection requirements (Refugee Status and Subsidiary Protection), this principle is guaranteed through complementary protection types, as applicable. Italy collects data on international protection applicants' vulnerability – reported into "*Vesta.net*"¹⁰⁶ by registration of *C3-Model*-form, at *Questura*. In this form, there are *inter alia* questions that the operator addresses to the applicant, aimed at detecting vulnerabilities. Accelerated procedures do not apply to vulnerable applicants. For vulnerable applicants, the presence of possible support staff at the interview is foreseen and their applications are given priority consideration. As for vulnerabilities due to pathologies, by law TCs¹⁰⁷ may grant permit "for medical treatment" if applicant, although not eligible for international protection, is in health condition resulting from particularly serious pathologies certified by public health facility and cannot be adequately treated in country of origin. TCs, through Prefectures, sign agreements with specialized Centers regarding migrants' health, besides protocols for referral of cases requiring medical-legal investigations and interventions. If during the interview at TC, torture/ill-treatment and indicators of strong psycho-emotional suffering emerge, the interviewing officer assesses whether to propose to the applicant a meeting with dedicated psychotherapists. Protocols have also been signed by TCs and hospital's Centers specialized in ethno-psychiatry.¹⁰⁸ Likewise, collaborations have been developed with university forensic laboratories, for the medical assessment of torture or ill-treatment cases.

Unaccompanied foreign minors

81. As to UAMs,¹⁰⁹ falling within vulnerable applicants, Italian law provides that the authority receiving international protection application suspends proceedings and informs Juvenile Court to appoint a guardian. Regarding the interview, guardian's presence is compulsory; to provide assistance, support staff is admitted. Interview occurs before a specifically trained TC's officer.

82. Presidential Decree 191/2022 envisages *inter alia* right to work or attend training activities. Relevant permit "allows self-employed and employed work as well as enrolment

in training aimed at accessing labour market, in compliance with the provisions on child labour”.

83. Law 47/2017 led to DPR¹¹⁰ 231/2023, which stipulates MoLSP’s competence vis-à-vis UAMs. Accordingly, MoLSP¹¹¹ Directorate General for Immigration and Integration Policies is mandated to, *inter alia*: conduct domestic UAMs census and monitoring; develop family tracing; formulate integrations policies. Relevant data is collected by National Information System for UAMs (in Italian, SIM).¹¹² Monthly data updates is available in Italian/English through a dedicated Dashboard; in-depth reports are published every six months.

84. Following Law-Decree 133/2023, converted with amendments by Law 176/2023, the reception system is currently structured as follows: there is a first reception phase in highly specialized governmental facilities; and a second level reception under the Reception and Integration System (in Italian, SAI). First reception facilities must ensure -for the time strictly necessary not exceeding 45 days- specialized services aimed at the subsequent minor’s transfer to second level Centres under SAI network. Since July 2023, 15 initial reception projects for UAMs have been activated, for a total of 750 places in governmental facilities, pursuant to Legislative Decree 142/2015. On November 2, 2023, another call for proposal was launched for the activation of additional 250 places. Second level reception Centres provide individualised projects. Over last years (2020-2024), SAI’s capacity to host UAMs has increased from 4,003 places to 6,115 places (as of March 2024). In case of significant UAMs’ arrival, Prefects may activate temporary accommodation facilities, exclusively dedicated to minors over the age of 14. In September 2022, an MoU by Ministry of Interior and Save the Children was renewed until December 31, 2023, by which to provide free legal assistance to vulnerable minors at disembarkation and transit areas. Ministry of Interior renewed until December 31, 2024, MoUs with: Terre des Hommes, to provide psychological support to minors from disembarkation to their initial reception; UNICEF, regarding quality of migrant children and adolescents’ reception and monitoring.

85. National Asylum Commission yearly updates training for TC’s officers -organized in cooperation with EUAA.¹¹³ The latter prepares modules on “Interviewing vulnerable persons” and “GBV victims”. For all relevant institutional actors, specific guidelines/manuals are available (e.g. UNHCR-IDC Vulnerability Screening Tool – Identifying and Addressing Vulnerability: a tool for asylum and migration systems, 2016; EUAA, Practical guide: Qualification for international protection, April 2018, EUAA, Practical Guide: Evidence Assessment, March 2015, EUAA, Practical Guide: Personal Interview, December 2014, which include focus on the identification of vulnerable applicants and special safeguards).

86. A comprehensive set of initiatives of a regulatory and administrative nature is being implemented to achieve adequate increase in human resources among relevant officers and staff with administrative support functions besides ensuring their adequate training. Of relevance is the quality monitoring of asylum procedures, meaning fair and efficient procedure conducted in a transparent manner in accordance with CEAS¹¹⁴ standards. Quality monitoring is carried out by National Asylum Commission’s “Quality Unit”, including Commission officials, EUAA, and UNHCR that develop/disseminate asylum procedure support tools and good practices.

87. Law 50/2023 amended SAI network besides indicating beneficiaries entitled to access it: Afghans international protection applicants arrived through evacuation operations by Italian authorities; Ukrainians pursuant to Legislative Decree 16/2023; international protection applicants arrived by humanitarian corridors and similar programs providing for beneficiaries’ identification in collaboration with UNHCR; international protection applicants belonging to vulnerable categories under Article 17 of Legislative Decree 142/2015 (Children, UAMs, PwDs, the elderly, pregnant women, single parents with children, trafficked victims, people suffering serious illnesses or mental disorders, people ascertained as victims of torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence or violence linked to sexual orientation or gender identity, victims of genital mutilation). As of December 2023, under SAI¹¹⁵ there were 913 projects covering 43,193 places, to which to add 39,213 places activated by Municipalities.

88. On May 19, 2022, Minister of Interior adopted Directive on Criteria for the organization and management of CPRs¹¹⁶ to set rules for the CPRs being clearer, homogeneous, and uniform. Article 1 stipulates that the person in a CPR is provided with the necessary assistance and full respect for the fundamental rights.

89. MoH¹¹⁷ and INMP¹¹⁸ collaborated -since the programming phases of FAMI¹¹⁹ National Plan 2021-27 – to coordinate FAMI Regional Health Plans and to guarantee the right to health of refugees and migrants.

90. MoLSP promotes programs on socio-labor inclusion of the most vulnerable. Financed by EU funds, these interventions bring together employment services, reception system and businesses, offering specialized services (orientation and employment support) and traineeship. Between 2019-2023, *PUOI* project, accompanied about 3,000 people towards autonomy. The *Percorsi* project aims at facilitating access to labor market for UAMs and young migrants by coordinating vocational training and social protection. By the former, intervention was designed to offer integrated support services, including apprenticeships, Italian language courses, job orientation. The latter is currently at its fourth edition, with about 3,000 minors and young migrants having been supported so far. Socio-labor inclusion of vulnerable migrants in reception system is also the focus of an MoU by MoLSP, Ministry of Interior and Social Partners (employers' associations and trade unions) in the construction sector: the goal is to offer 3,000 training courses and job placement in construction companies, nationwide. A similar MoU is being finalized with the tourism sector.

III. Status of implementation of voluntary pledges

91. Italy is firmly engaged in the implementation of relevant pledges, especially those made upon its election to UN Human Rights Council¹²⁰ and under UDHR75 Initiative.¹²¹ Some of these commitments involve ongoing tasks on which the Italian Government is continuing to work (for further details, see Sections of the present report).

92. Italy will continue to promote Human Rights with an open, constructive, and inclusive approach, fostering dialogue among countries and regional groups.

93. Italy furthermore fully supports the ownership by local actors and CSOs.

94. Italy fully supports the work of OHCHR and joins the calls aimed at providing OHCHR with the necessary and sufficient budget to perform its functions. Italy will keep working to support the role of Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures, in line with the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, transparency and non-selectivity, as well as UPR and UNTB.

IV. New and emerging issues, advances and challenges

95. As a member of the Group of Friends on NMIRFs, Italy expresses its firm support to the relevant process and work. In this context, in April 2024 a relevant expert roundtable took place at University of Bologna.¹²²

96. Italy co-organized, with UNDESA and IDLO, the SDG16 High-Level Conference (held on May 6, 2024), which may be considered as a major international platform of exchange on SDG16 implementation at all levels.

V. Challenges and international community

97. Italy has always supported UN Agenda 2030, inter alia, through the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, in place since 2018, focussing on six areas – given the “Five Ps¹²³”.

98. Italian civil society is also very active: as a way of examples, “ASviS”, established in 2016, gathers about 300 different institutions and bodies and yearly promotes the sustainable development festival, recognized by UN SDG action campaign as an innovative initiative.¹²⁴

99. ISTAT¹²⁵ has been mandated to collect and periodically publish UNSDGs-related data.¹²⁶ Data is updated twice a year; the global report every year. In 2023, 373 indicators were provided: 113 identical indicators to those requested by UN-IAEG; 133 similar or partial; 127 are indicators useful to understand the national context. Out of the 373 indicators, gender-specific ones are 124.

100. Italy has always been a strong advocate of death penalty abolition and still is an active supporter – together with the EU – of the campaign for a universal moratorium on capital punishment. Our engagement with many partners – both Governments and CSOs – to raise awareness on true effects of death penalty (including exacerbating discriminations), hidden costs and alternative measures, was rewarded in December 2022 by a great success: the ninth biannual Resolution on the moratorium was approved by UN General Assembly with support of 125 States. In preparation to this voting, the Italian diplomatic network was mobilized to raise awareness in as many countries as possible. Italy will continue to engage tirelessly to get positive result in 2024, when a new relevant resolution will be presented to the UN General Assembly.

Notes

- ¹ Acronym standing for, Working Group.
- ² Acronym standing for, Civil Society Organizations.
- ³ Acronym standing for, Local and Regional Governments.
- ⁴ <https://cidu.esteri.it/chi-siamo/>
- ⁵ Acronym standing for, National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up.
- ⁶ Acronym standing for, Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- ⁷ See Italy's Common Core Document - HRI/CORE/ITA/2016.
- ⁸ Acronym standing for, Human Rights Council.
- ⁹ Acronym standing for, UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances.
- ¹⁰ Acronym standing for, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
- ¹¹ Acronym standing for, National Action Plan.
- ¹² Acronym in Italian standing for, National Authority on Armament Export.
- ¹³ Acronym in Italian standing for, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- ¹⁴ Acronym standing for, EU Member States.
- ¹⁵ Acronym standing for, Small arms and light weapons.
- ¹⁶ Acronym standing for, Official Development Assistance.
- ¹⁷ Acronym standing for, Gross National Income.
- ¹⁸ OECD - Development Assistance Committee.
- ¹⁹ Acronym standing for, Least Developed Countries.
- ²⁰ Sustainable Development Goals. See UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/70/1), adopted on 25 September 2015, "*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*".
- ²¹ Italy VNR 2022 (<https://hlpf.un.org/countries/italy/voluntary-national-review-2022>).
- ²² Acronym standing for, National Human Rights Institution.
- ²³ National Guarantor for the Protection of Personal Data or Data Protection Authority (DPA).
- ²⁴ Acronym in Italian standing for, National Anti-Corruption Authority.
- ²⁵ Acronym standing for, National Recovery and Resilience Plan.
- ²⁶ Under NRRP, Mission 1 (Digitalization, innovation, competitiveness, culture, and tourism) – Component 1 – Measure 1.
- ²⁷ Acronym in Italian, standing for, Indicator of the Equivalent Economic Situation.
- ²⁸ Family Policies Department-Presidency of the Council of Ministers.
- ²⁹ <https://famiglia.governo.it/it/politiche-e-attivita/famiglia/osservatorio-nazionale-sulla-famiglia/cosa-fa-lossservatorio/>
- ³⁰ Acronym standing for, Non-Governmental Organizations.
- ³¹ Acronym in Italian standing for, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy.
- ³² Acronym standing for, Memorandum of Understanding.
- ³³ Acronym standing for, Unaccompanied foreign minors.
- ³⁴ Acronym standing for, Persons with disabilities.
- ³⁵ Acronym standing for, Working Group.
- ³⁶ Acronym standing for, Ministry of Health.
- ³⁷ Acronym in Italian standing for, National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty.
- ³⁸ Acronym, TCs.
- ³⁹ Acronym standing for, National Office Against Racial Discrimination.

- 40 See Law 126/2020.
- 41 Acronym in Italian standing for, Observatory for Security Against Acts of Discrimination.
- 42 Sports Department-Presidency of the Council of Ministers.
- 43 <https://osservatoriosport.interno.gov.it/category/osservatorio/assemblea/>
- 44 Acronym standing for, Italian broadcasting service.
- 45 Acronym in Italian standing for, Italian Paralympic Committee.
- 46 Acronym standing for, Italian Institute for Environment Protection and Research.
- 47 <https://climadat.isprambiente.it>
- 48 Acronym standing for, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- 49 Acronym standing for, Human rights defenders.
- 50 Acronym standing for, Artificial Intelligence.
- 51 As for training offerings addressed to magistracy staff, please refer to: <https://ssm-italia.eu>.
- 52 See Art. 6(1).
- 53 Acronym in Italian standing for, Residences for the Execution of Security Measures.
- 54 Acronym standing for, Department for Equal Opportunities-Presidency of the Council of Ministers.
- 55 Acronym standing for, Computerized system for collecting trafficking in human being-related information.
- 56 Acronym standing for, Special operating procedures.
- 57 Acronym standing for, Ministry on Labor and Social Policies.
- 58 Acronym in Italian standing for, National Labor Inspectorate.
- 59 Acronym standing for, National Association of Italian Municipalities.
- 60 Acronym standing for, Task Forces.
- 61 <https://www.statoregioni.it/it/presentazione/attivita/conferenza-unificata/>
- 62 Acronym in Italian standing for, Essential Levels of Social Benefits.
- 63 Acronym standing for, National Recovery and Resilience Plan.
- 64 Acronym standing for, Persons with disabilities.
- 65 Service Centre.
- 66 Acronym standing for, Ministry of Health.
- 67 See Ministerial Decree, dated 7 September 2024, No. 183.
- 68 Acronym standing for, Fund Asylum, Migration, and Integration.
- 69 Acronym standing for, National Programme.
- 70 Acronym standing for, Roma, Sinti and Caminanti.
- 71 Acronym in Italian standing for, the Department of European Affairs of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.
- 72 See Art. 3 of the Treaty on European Union - TEU, which stipulates that the EU “shall respect the richness of its cultural and linguistic diversity and shall ensure that Europe’s cultural heritage is safeguarded and developed.”; EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (including Art.21 and 22) and other treaty provisions, as well as, more recently, Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec (2022)1).
- 73 Acronym standing for, National Recovery and Resilience Plan.
- 74 See, under NRRP, Mission 1– Digitalization, innovation, competitiveness, culture, and tourism – Component 1 – Measure 110.
- 75 Acronym standing for, Gender-based violence.
- 76 Acronym standing for, Department for Equal Opportunities-Presidency of the Council of Ministers.
- 77 Acronym standing for, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.
- 78 Acronym standing for, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
- 79 Acronym in Italian standing for, Presidency of the Council of Ministers.
- 80 Acronym in Italian standing for, Ministry of Education and Merit.
- 81 Italian financial market supervisory Authority.
- 82 Acronym in Italian standing for, National Institute of Statistics.
- 83 See <https://www.istat.it/statistiche-per-temi/focus/violenza-sulle-donne/>; in English only a short version is available at: <https://www.istat.it/en/statistical-themes/focus/violence-against-women/>.
- 84 Acronym standing for, Violence against women.
- 85 https://ovg.giustizia.it/#blk2_OSS11910.
- 86 Acronym in Italian standing for, Decree of the Presidency of Ministers’ Council.
- 87 Acronym in Italian standing for, Anti-violence centres.
- 88 Acronym in Italian standing for, National Institute for Social Security.
- 89 Acronym in Italian standing for, National Office of Statistics.
- 90 <https://www.statoregioni.it/it/presentazione/attivita/conferenza-unificata/>
- 91 Acronym standing for, Persons with disabilities.
- 92 See Ministerial Decree dated August 1, 2023, No.153, pursuant to Art. 7, para.2-ter of Legislative Decree dated April 13, 2017, No.66.
- 93 Acronym in Italian standing for, Presidency of the Ministers’ Council.

- ⁹⁴ Acronym in Italian standing for, Ministry of Education and Merit.
- ⁹⁵ Acronym in Italian standing for, Ministry on Labour and Social Policies.
- ⁹⁶ <https://famiglia.governo.it/it/politiche-e-attivita/infanzia-e-adolescenza/osservatorio-nazionale-per-linfanzia-e-ladolescenza/componenti/>.
- ⁹⁷ The National Action Plan of Interventions for the Protection of the Rights and Development of Children and Adolescents.
- ⁹⁸ As structured in specific actions to be implemented by 2030.
- ⁹⁹ See Law 17 May 2024, No.70 for provisions and delegation to the Government regarding the prevention and combating of bullying and cyberbullying have recently been issued.
- ¹⁰⁰ Communications Authority (<https://www.agcom.it>).
- ¹⁰¹ Data Protection Authority (https://www.garanteprivacy.it/web/garante-privacy-en/home_en).
- ¹⁰² Acronym in Italian standing for, Roma, Sinti and Caminanti.
- ¹⁰³ Acronym in Italian standing for, National Institute of Statistics.
- ¹⁰⁴ Acronym in Italian standing for, National Office against Racial Discrimination.
- ¹⁰⁵ Acronym in Italian standing for, National Association of Italian Municipalities.
- ¹⁰⁶ Being a specific national information system - for when international protection application is registered.
- ¹⁰⁷ Acronym standing for, Territorial Commission.
- ¹⁰⁸ E.g. protocol with Niguarda Hospital in Milan.
- ¹⁰⁹ Acronym standing for, unaccompanied foreign minors.
- ¹¹⁰ Acronym in Italian standing for, Decree of the President of the Republic.
- ¹¹¹ Acronym in Italian, standing for, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies.
- ¹¹² As published on MoLSP's website.
- ¹¹³ Acronym standing for, European Union Agency for Asylum.
- ¹¹⁴ Acronym standing for, Common European Asylum System.
- ¹¹⁵ Acronym in Italian standing for, Reception and Integration System.
- ¹¹⁶ Acronym in Italian standing for, Centres for Repatriation, as provided for in Article 14 of Legislative Decree 286/1998, and subsequent amendments.
- ¹¹⁷ Acronym standing for, Ministry of Health.
- ¹¹⁸ Acronym in Italian standing for, National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty.
- ¹¹⁹ Acronym in Italian standing for, Fund Asylum, Migration and Integration.
- ¹²⁰ <https://undocs.org/en/A/73/72>
- ¹²¹ https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/udhr/publishingimages/75udhr/Italy_EN.pdf.
- ¹²² <https://www.geneva-academy.ch/news/detail/714-expert-roundtable-discusses-role-of-local-and-regional-governments-in-data-collection-for-national-mechanisms>.
- ¹²³ *People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity, Partnership and Sustainability*.
- ¹²⁴ Acronym in Italian standing for, Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (<https://asvis.it/festival-dello-sviluppo-sostenibile/>).
- ¹²⁵ Acronym in Italian standing for, National Institute of Statistics.
- ¹²⁶ <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/SDGs>.
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