

ITALY



MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI E DELLA COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE

*Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights
Comitato Interministeriale per i Diritti Umani*

Introductory Statement

**Address by Min. Plen. Fabrizio Petri,
President of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights,
On the Seventh Periodic Report of Italy
Relating to the International Convention on the Elimination of All
Forms of Discrimination against Women,
Before UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination against Women
(CEDAW)**

Geneva, July 4, 2017

ITALY

Madam Chairperson, distinguished Members of the CEDAW Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen,
At the outset, allow me to thank, on behalf of the Italian Authorities, UN CEDAW Committee for the opportunity given us today, to provide an up-to-date overview of the situation of human rights of women in Italy.

Through increasingly integrated policies and measures, the Government is working to improve the situation of women's human rights; and we hope today to be able to give both the broad picture of our engagement and more insights into the situation on the ground.

I will start - following the intervention just made by H. E. Amb. Maurizio Enrico Serra, Permanent Representative of Italy to United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva - by introducing the Italian **delegation, consisting of senior representatives and experts** of key departments of the Italian Government. I am Fabrizio Petri, **President of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights (acronym in Italian, CIDU)**; and other members of the delegation are:

PRESIDENCY OF MINISTERS' COUNCIL – DEPARTMENT FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (ACRONYM, DEO)

Mr. Michele Palma - pro-tempore **General Director for International Affairs at Department for Equal Opportunities (DEO) and Director General for Family Policies at Department for Family Policies;**

Ms. Elena Falcomatà – Senior Gender Expert – Department for Equal Opportunities (DEO);

Mr. Marino Di Nardo – Senior Gender Expert – Department for Equal Opportunities (DEO);

NATIONAL OFFICE AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (ACRONYM IN ITALIAN, UNAR) - DEO

Ms. Carla Marini – Officer at National Office Against Racial Discrimination (in Italian, UNAR) – Department for Equal Opportunities (DEO);

DEPARTMENT FOR FAMILY POLICIES

Mr. Alfredo Ferrante – Executive at Department on Family Policies;

Ms. Antonella Graziadei – Officer, Gender and Family Policies Expert at Department on Family Policies;

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

Ms. Brunella Francero Cattarin – First executive at General Directorate for General Affairs of the State Police - Department of Public Security;

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Ms. Linda D'Ancona – Magistrate at Minister of Justice's Cabinet;

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL POLICIES

Ms. Adriana Ciampa, Executive at General Directorate for Inclusion and Social Policies;

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH

Ms. Alessandra Baldi, Expert at General Directorate for Students, Integration, and Participation

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Ms. Assuntina Morresi – Consultant to H.E. Minister of Health, Ms. Beatrice Lorenzin;

Ms. Serena Battilomo – Director of Office IX on protection of women’s health and vulnerable individuals,’ and fight against inequalities at General Directorate on Health-care Prevention;

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS (ACRONYM IN ITALIANA, ISTAT)

Ms. Maria Giuseppina Muratore - First Researcher, expert of studies on criminality, justice, and violence against women;

NATIONAL AUTHORITY ON COMMUNICATIONS (in Italian, AGCOM)

Ms. Rosa Cavallaro – Senior Expert on TV and Radio monitoring of political and social pluralism at Directorate on Audio-visual Content

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Ms. Daniela d’Orlandi - Diplomat, First Counsellor at Permanent Mission of Italy to United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva;

Ms. Maja Bova - Lawyer, Human Rights Expert at Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights;

INTERPRETERS

Ms. Claudia Martin-Stern;

Ms. Emanuela Sebastiani.

Madam Chairperson,

We are fully aware that any steps to eradicating discrimination against women are really meaningful with the involvement of the Civil Society. This is why I underline the value for Italy of the integrated approach. However, more work remains to be done to make it more effective.

In this vein, allow me to underline that: 1) **CIDU has established a permanent position, whose title is: “Responsible for the relations with civil society”** (since January 2017, one of our experts has the mandate to liaise, follow and interact with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)). We have also extensively involved Civil Society in the elaboration of both the first National Plan of Action on Business and Human Rights, 2017 – 2022, and the third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, 2017-2020. 2) **The Department for Equal Opportunities (hereinafter, DEO) has set up a National Observatory on Violence, with the full involvement of Civil Society.** As per practice, **DEO and UNAR regularly consult with Civil Society.**

Allow me to stress that the Italian Government is willing to continue its cooperation with relevant NGOs and anti-violence Centres and shelters. Also taking into full consideration their indications, we are now elaborating the new National Action Plan Against Sexual and Gender-based Violence. **In the above-mentioned spirit of full commitment to dialogue with Civil Society, we have carefully considered the observations and shadow reports posted on the CEDAW website.**

Since our last discussion, we have carefully studied **your Observations**, which CIDU promptly translated and disseminated. An inter-ministerial Task Force, headed by the Ministry of Justice, was established to translate in Italian and post all relevant CEDAW material, online. CIDU also translated and posted online: the last Women, Peace and Security Plan; the last periodic Report to CEDAW; and the more recent Reply to CEDAW List of Issues.

Madam Chairperson,

The international juncture is influencing political choices at all levels. Despite this very complex situation, Italy is truly committed to advancing human rights, as can be inferred, inter alia, from its candidacy to the Human Rights Council, 2019 – 2021. Internationally, Italy's action within the UN and other International Organizations (IOs) has been marked, in recent years, by its focus on key issues, such as: the promotion of a moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its universal abolition; the eradication of violence against women, including female genital mutilation (FGM) and Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM); the promotion of human rights education and training (HRE); UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; and Women, Peace and Security, including during its tenure of non-permanent UN Security Council Member (2017). Italy's commitment to the international protection of human rights is also reflected by all the relevant actions to follow-up to Universal Periodic Review's recommendations.

UN Commission on the Status of Women, Beijing +20 and onwards

The year 2015 has marked a variety of anniversaries, especially the twentieth of the Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action, which gave us the opportunity to further reflect on how to better progress towards the goals of equality, development, and peace for all women and girls. Also the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 is of the utmost relevance. Indeed, this is a road-map to further ensure the above goals, for all. By virtue of this commitment, on the margins of the last CSW session (March 2017), Italy hosted, together with a series of distinguished personalities, several side-events. During that Session, we recalled our relevant latest developments and shared good/best practices.

Madam Chairperson,

Domestically, while acknowledging the complexity of the current juncture, in no life's sectors women are hindered. However, full equality is not yet achieved. More specifically, **I would like to outline some of the latest key initiatives:**

Recent legislation

Since our May 2017-Reply, allow me to mention **the recent entry into force of legislation on: smart working (Law No. 81/2017); gender budgeting in public administrations; and against cyber-bullying (Act 71/2017).**

NHRI

As for an Independent National Human Rights Institution, specific draft legislation is the subject of current debate, particularly within the Constitutional Affairs Commission of the Senate of Italy. Just a few weeks ago a new amended text has been submitted to this Commission; and we hope that it will be approved at the earliest.

Gender-based Discrimination

Article 3 of the Italian Constitution sets forth the principle of formal and substantial equality, including between women and men. With the aim of preventing and eliminating any forms of gender-based discrimination, the so-called *Equal Opportunities Code* (Act No.198/2006) has been amended and further supplemented. Its Articles 12-20 are devoted to the Equality Councillors, the work of which is mainly based upon complaints lodged with by women workers, on the ground of discrimination at workplace. **So far, no cases have been lodged with by women workers with disabilities.**

Over last years, the **Superior School for Judiciary has been dedicating specific refresher courses to human rights, including non-discrimination and gender-based violence, which devote specific attention to CEDAW and to relevant related obligations.**

To support women victims of violent crimes and to ensure a coordinated action, relevant **MoUs - all being available online - have been signed by key local stakeholders and judicial Authorities**; and other ones will be developed within the new Plan against gender-based violence.

As for **women with disabilities, since 2000** ISTAT has been implementing a national information system on disability to collect all relevant data and information. It includes about 40 gender-disaggregated indicators concerning ten different areas of life. The website is: *dati.disabilitaincifre.it* – in this regard, I am pleased to submit a specific sample of these indicators, *brevi manu*.

On 5 June 2017, DEO launched a three-million-Euros **Call for Proposals to finance actions for the promotion of equal opportunities in the fields of private undertakings, art, culture, and sport, for persons with disabilities**.

Violence Against Women (VAW)

On 7 July 2015, the **Extraordinary National Action Plan against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence** was adopted by Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, with the aim of establishing a multi-level governance system of public policies for combating such phenomena and supporting their victims. As earlier mentioned, a **National Observatory on Violence** was established and is made of three Working Groups, on: **Legislation; Protection paths; and Strategic Framework**.

The Extraordinary National Action Plan Against Sexual and Gender-based Violence focuses - and we will continue to further focus - on education and training for key personnel, **including the judiciary**. Along these lines, on 25 November 2016 DEO signed **5 MoUs, including with Carabinieri Corps and State Police**. **As for relevant training of health-care personnel**, 30 Emergency Rooms staff have been trained; and this activity will be soon extended nationwide where other emergency rooms exist.

As of April 2017, **501 are the safe shelters (anti-violence Centres + women's refuges) in Italy**; and significant economic resources have been allocated, in particular in 2016.

In November 2016, the structure for the setting up of a specific **National Database on gender-based violence** was also defined and will be implemented through the MoU with ISTAT.

- According to the ISTAT-2015 survey, about 6.800,000 women have been victims of some forms of violence, either physical or sexual, during lifetime. **Foreign women are victims of sexual or physical violence on a scale similar to Italian women's.**
- **As mentioned in our last Report, the situation of women with disabilities or diseases is a matter of concern: 36% of those women with bad health conditions and 36,6% of those with serious limitations have been victims of physical or sexual violence. The risk to be exposed to rape or attempted rape doubles compared to women without any health problems.**
- **On a positive note**, compared to the previous survey-2006, sexual and physical violence cases result to be reduced. **This is the result of increased awareness of existing protection tools by women in the first place and the public opinion at large, in addition to an overall social climate of condemnation and no mercy for such crimes.**

The second violence against women-survey has collected data - and in 2018, the next one will continue to do so - on violence against women with disabilities.

Madam Chairperson,

In line with the above Plan, from a **legislative standpoint**, allow me to recall: **Legislative Decree No. 80/2015 on “Measures for reconciliation between care, work and family life”**, which envisages, inter alia, the setting up of a **special paid leave for working women victims of violence** following duly certified protection programs; **Law No. 124/2015 on the reorganization of Public Administrations**, by which the working woman victim of violence is entitled to ask to **move to another Public Administration** of a different Municipality; **Reform of the national education and training system (Law No. 107/2015)**, which provides for, inter alia, the inclusion of education to gender equality; **Law No. 119/2013** envisages that protection is extended to foreign women victims of violence, who are thus entitled to obtain a **humanitarian residence permit**.

Against this background, DEO is currently working on the **new National Action Plan against Gender-Based Violence**, which will be presumably adopted this summer. The Plan will be fully in line with the main national and international standards, including the Istanbul Convention and the G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment. The Plan will provide for, inter alia: **innovative actions for women victims of violence and multiple discrimination (women with disabilities)**; and a specific focus on forced marriages and female genital mutilation.

Following last CRC Concluding Observations, the **criminal legislation in force concerning violence against children, including corporal punishment**, is worthy of mention.

Trafficking in Human Beings (THB)

The first **National Action Plan against Trafficking in and Serious Exploitation of Human Beings** was adopted by Council of Ministers on 26 February 2016, in line with Legislative Decree No 24/2014 transposing relevant EU Directive 2011/36/EU. The Plan aims at identifying **multiannual intervention strategies for the prevention and fight against these phenomena, as well as measures to increase public awareness, social prevention, emergence and social integration of victims**.

In December 2016, “Guidelines for the correct identification and assistance to victims and persons at risk of becoming victims of trafficking among international protection applicants” addresses Territorial Commissions and sets relevant standard operating procedures (SOPs).

In late April 2017, we passed Act No. 47/2017 on **Foreign Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs)**, to ensure specific protection to unaccompanied minors who are victims of trafficking: inter alia, an ad hoc aid program will ensure long term solutions, beyond the coming of age.

With regard to **prostitution**, the phenomenon is increasingly linked to irregular migration and trafficking in human beings. Children are constantly targeted. They are usually “recruited” from Central African Region and Balkans, and, more recently, from China by mainly foreign organized crime. **Police Forces** are strongly engaged in countering this phenomenon, including online.

Development Cooperation

Italy acknowledges that the integration of gender equality and women’s empowerment, and the protection of human rights of women across all areas of development activities meet both political needs and economic demands. In more detail, the specific projects and initiatives carried out by the Italian Cooperation aim at, inter alia: Supporting women in fragile state and in conflict situations; Advancing women’s economic and political empowerment, while informing and shaping national-

level policy-making and facilitating strategic cross-national and inter-regional partnerships; Promoting women's rights and gender equality, focusing also on eliminating harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation and early marriage; Keeping focus on the implementation of international agreements and relevant documents, such as CEDAW, Maputo Protocol and relevant Resolutions under the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

In light of the international conferences held in 2015-2016, **in December 2016 Italy adopted the third National Action Plan on "Women, Peace and Security"**, which is made of 7 Objectives, 44 Actions and qualitative and quantitative indicators. Compared to previous editions, we decided to reverse the order of the "Objectives", to better reflect the transformative nature of UNSCR 1325 (2000) and the key role to be played by Civil Society at large, while ensuring specific focus, inter alia, on Development Cooperation and Defence.

Women in Top-level Positions

Madam Chairperson,

The process to increase women's participation in all decision-making and political processes, as well as leading positions is on-going.

By **Law 65/2014** on the European Parliament election, women within the European Parliament have increased: **29 women**. Domestically, under current Legislature, women parliamentarians are 30.1% (above the EU average); and since first Legislature in Italy, women parliamentarians' rate has been increasing – and I am honoured to submit relevant graphs today.

Same positive results emerge from the enforcement of **Law 215/2012** establishing provisions to promote gender balance in local governments and regional councils. **In regional governments**, in 2010, 24.2% of **regional governments' members were women**. In 2016, their percentage was equal to **35%**; and two women are regional Presidents (Umbria and Friuli Venezia Giulia regions). At the local level (Municipalities), between 2012-2015, women **in local administrations** have increased by **38.8%**.

Law No 120/2011, also called Golfo-Mosca Law, mandates increased representation of women on boards of publicly-listed and State-owned companies. This can be seen as significant revolution in Italy. This Law requires that boards (executives and non-executives) of publicly-listed companies and state-owned companies have at least 33% of either gender by 2015 and sets a target of 20% for the transitional period. Following the entry into force of this **Law**, the percentage of women in publicly listed companies is **currently equal to 27.6%** (while in 2010 it was equal to **about 6%**).

Among persons that practice sport on a continuously basis, **CONI (the National Italian Olympic Committee)** estimates that about 26.9% is made of women. However, **among sport-related operators, women account for less than 20%**.

Women in RAI - the Italian public broadcasting system - are 5.133 out of 12.312 workers, with almost equal rates of women and men among journalists and managers - and a graph is provided today.

In 2015, **women Ambassadors were 12 (= 9%) out of 129; and 11 women were Consul General/Consul (=18%)**. And speaking about diplomacy, the new Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is woman Ambassador.

In 2016, **women Police executives** (ordinary functions) were 246. As for **women judges in executive positions**, they are 105 out of 409 judges. Within Constitutional Court, 3 judges out of 15

are women. As for **independent administrative Authorities** under Act 114/2014, 12 out of 36 members are women (33%).

Plus, a woman runs **Children's Rights Ombudsperson; and two out of three members of the board of the recently-established National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) are women**. As for the latter, I also would like to recall that in several visits-related reports, the NPM has been focussing on gender (i.e. the visit report to Liguria Region); and many recommendations referred to gender-related issues.

Roma women

Madam Chairperson,

We also recognise that much more needs to be done for Roma women, either Italians or migrants. Roma women are particularly disadvantaged. Italy remains firmly committed to addressing their integration. UNAR has recently launched the **National Roma Platform** with representatives of the Roma and Sinti communities. Within this framework, a specific EU-CoE pilot Programme, entitled **JUSTROM**, to facilitate Roma, Sinti and Caminanti women's access to justice is currently carried out in partnership with UNAR.

In 2016, **UNAR Contact Centre worked on 275 cases of discrimination against women**. The 76% of cases are related to discrimination on ethnic-racial grounds; and 5% of which refers to discrimination against Roma, Sinti and Caminanti.

With regard to the National Fund to support Victims of Discrimination, between December 2014-May 2017, in terms of general data and overall discrimination-related cases brought about, **44 applications have been filed**, of which 33 relating to race or ethnic origin. Among them, **32** were accepted, **9** rejected, **1** withdrawn, and **2** more are under evaluation. 9 cases also included the disability ground. In parallel, **32 legal actions have been financially supported** (strategic litigation settlements).

Women asylum-seekers and migrant women

Madam Chairperson,

Aware of the dramatic situations occurring in the Mediterranean Sea, Italy remains at the forefront of a massive effort to save human beings. In terms of best practices, allow me to recall **the SPRAR system** (standing for, System of Protection of Asylum-seekers and Refugees) across the country, which is aimed at taking care of asylum-seekers, including women asylum-seekers.

With regard to **unaccompanied minors (UAMs)**, by Decree of the Minister of Interior, dated 29 July 2014, a Special Unit for the Reception of Foreign Unaccompanied Minors has been established to coordinate the setting up of a dedicated comprehensive reception system.

Migration cannot be considered of a transitional or temporary nature and requires a multilevel strategy. Italy has demonstrated its ability to deal with this emergency, which is mainly caused by conflicts, economic unbalances, climate change. This Challenge, which will persist in the coming years, is by no means one that single countries can tackle by themselves. In this regard, allow me to recall the so-called **humanitarian corridor-initiative**, aimed at facilitating the arrival of pre-identified groups of refugees, mostly via Lebanon and Morocco.

Over the past decade, the number of immigrants residing in Italy has steadily increased; and ISTAT is carrying out a national survey about living conditions and social integration of foreign citizens.

LGBTI people's rights

Madam Chairperson,

I wish to recall the adoption last January of **the Decrees implementing the 2016 legislation on civil unions for same sex couples**, which is an important step towards the fight against discrimination and the protection of LGBTI people's rights. Among relevant provisions, when foreigners are from countries where sexual orientation is a ground of discrimination and homosexuality falls within criminal conducts, the only requirement is a certificate of non-marital civil status. Under "civil unions", partners must ensure mutual material and moral support. Property and assets are under a system of community property, unless otherwise decided.

Education and science sector

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to mention the very recent Legislative Decree No. 66/2017, entitled "**Provisions for the promotion of school inclusion of students with disabilities**," entered into force on 31 May 2017.

Moreover, the Ministry of Education (acronym in Italian, MIUR) issued a Call on 16 June 2017, to set up a **National Observatory to monitor educational initiatives on gender equality and against gender-based violence**; and the relevant web-portal "**www.noisiamopari.it**" has been recently enhanced.

The Health Ministry, under the 2015-MoU signed with MIUR aimed to define common strategies on health and education, is working to finalize "National Guidelines for Education to Affectivity, Sexuality and Reproductive Health in Schools", along the WHO Guidelines on Sexual Education.

To promote girls and women in science sector, we have launched the "**STEM** month" last March 8, 2017. This is a joint MIUR-DEO project, to promote the study of STEM-related disciplines, at all educational levels and for all students, boys and girls. Under this project, "The girl students want to count!" campaign allows all female students, to make a video to explain their passion for STEM, and winners will attend a specific STEM-related training.

Eradication of gender stereotypes

Madam Chairperson,

Awareness is also raised through media. In addition to the several campaigns launched over the last years by DEO, this Department has extended its cooperation with the Institute of Advertising Self-Regulation (acronym in Italian, IAP) by consecutive MoUs, to ensure that media provide a correct portrayal of women.

To increase awareness about women's health in all periods of life, the Government established the **National Women's Health Day**, on April 22nd of each year – and the relevant Manifesto in English is submitted to you *brevi manu*, today.

By mainly targeting youth, the **Fertility Day** was intended to draw national attention to both male and female fertility and related health-care protection, by providing information and tools on prevention, early diagnosis and care-taking of diseases that could affect fertility.

Economic well-being, pay equity, flexibility

Madam Chairperson,

In June 2017, the Minister of Economy and Undersecretary of State for Equal Opportunities signed a specific **Decree on Gender Budgeting within State budget**, by which the impact of public policies on women and men will be assessed with regard to pay, services, time and unpaid work.

Starting from 2010, under “Italia 2020” Plan and by means of a coordination between State and Regions, the Department for Equal Opportunities (DEO) has been promoting the 2010 “**Agreement on reconciliation between work and private life**” to allow the regional implementation of initiatives for **working women and men who, at the same time, take care of children or adults in difficult situations**. So far, **65 regional projects involving over 27,000 women have been funded. Data is partial as the second relevant agreement is still on-going.**

DEO, under **European Social Fund**, has been responsible also for the system-actions aimed at supporting Sicily, Puglia, Calabria, and Campania regions on reconciliation and women’s employment, including with regard to teleworking, part-time job, city schedules’ organization, job sharing and support for company’s best practices on gender issues.

In compliance with Directive 2010/18/EU and in line with the provisions already in force in other European countries, also the **compulsory paternal leave** has been introduced in the Italian legal system. On 15 June 2015, as part of the **Labour Reform Law**, the Italian Government adopted **Legislative Decree No. 80/2015** establishing “Measures for reconciliation between care, work and family life” and **Legislative Decree No. 81/2015** concerning the re-organization of employment contracts and duties.

By Law No. 124/2015, **Public administrations** adopt organizational measures for the implementation of **teleworking**. With the same purpose, Stability Act-2016 acknowledges to working women - employed by public administrations or private employers, or registered under the separate management scheme (*Gestione separata*) - the possibility to obtain, in lieu of the parental leave, an economic contribution for baby-sitting services or, alternatively, to cover the costs of public child-care services.

Law No. 232/2016 states that from January 1, 2017, in case of birth or child adoption, **upon mother’s request** she receives an 800-Euro premium. The same Law states that starting from 2017, for those born from January 1, 2016, the parents receive an annual 1.000-Euro bonus (*Bonus nido*), to pay public and private kindergartens’ fees or for support forms at home, in case of children up to age of 3 with serious chronic diseases.

Madam Chairperson

The challenge of the Italian Government is to change the organization of work, in order for it to be more flexible, result-oriented and independent from the physical presence of employees. Smart working, for example, can trigger a cultural change in which women do not need to choose between career and family, anymore.

On 6 June 2017, **Directive No.3** establishes that within 3 years, each public Administration will be able to use flexible working arrangements for a maximum percentage of 10% of employees. Worthy of mention is also **Law No. 81/2017** establishing measures for the protection of self-employment (excluding entrepreneurship) and measures aimed at promoting new flexible working arrangements for employees of the public and private sectors.

According to the latest OECD report on entrepreneurship, Italy is second in the ranking of the countries with the highest number of women entrepreneurs or self-employed women who account for 16% of all employed women in Italy. In this regard, two innovative policies are to be mentioned: 1) A Special Section, called “*Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri – Dipartimento per le Pari Opportunità*” of the Central Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

(SMEs); and 2) an MoU for the Development and Promotion of Women's Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment.

With regard to data on **blank resignations pursuant to Art.55 of Legislative Decree 151/2001**, from the last specific 2015 report, it emerges *inter alia*, as follows: "Unlike data from past years, failed validations equal to 11 (0.03%), nation-wide."

As for **earnings**, data elaborated by ISTAT are annually published in EUROSTAT database. In Italy, in the year 2015 only 43,3% of women are recipients of earned income. In the South of Italy, the number of women recipients is lower. A high level of education significantly reduces the differences. In 2015, the earned income of women is, on average, 24% lower than men.

Disabled women workers

Madam Chairperson,

At the constitutional level, the principles of non-discrimination and gender equality are designed to protect women, including women with disabilities from any forms of discrimination, which may occur in the fields of employment, access to public offices and to elected positions, and during maternity (Articles 3, 31, 37 and 51 of the Constitution).

In this regard, allow me to recall: Law No. 104/1992 for the assistance, social integration and rights of persons with disabilities, both women and men, which contains the general rules on the socio-economic inclusion of people with disabilities; Law No. 68/1999 on standards for the right to work of the disabled; Ministerial Decree No.91/2000 providing incentives to facilitate the access to work for disabled women; and Law No.67/2006 on measures for the judicial protection of persons with disabilities when victims of discrimination.

The latest 2016 data on working women with disabilities as provided by Regions and Provinces, covering the years 2014-2015, indicates that the number of persons with disabilities (both Italian and Non-EU citizens) in job centres' lists amounts to about 780,000 in 2015, of whom about 360,000 are women with disabilities.

The **National Fund for Not-Self-Autonomous People** (acronym in Italian, FNA), established by the 2007 Budget Law, allocates resources for socio-health-care assistance at a regional level. Equally important is the so-called "**After Us Legislation (Act No. 112/2016)**", aimed at ensuring well-being and inclusion of persons with serious disabilities when they remain without family support.

The National Family Plan-2012 promoted the establishment of **Family Centres**, being "driving centres within a network of services, interventions, bodies and actions (in social, health and education fields) for policies concerning family and care services". In 2015 the Department for Family Policies carried out the first related national monitoring exercise.

Women's Health

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to turn to the health-care sector. Article 32 of the Italian Constitution sets forth "*1) The Republic protects individual health as a basic right and in the public interest; it provides free medical care to the poor. (2) Nobody may be forcefully subjected to medical treatment save those cases fixed by law. Even in those cases, the legislation cannot be contrary to the respect for the human dignity*". In terms of overall budget, **the National Health-Care System (SSN) budget for the year 2016, amounting to 111 billion Euros, was so divided: 5% for prevention; 51% for**

district-related assistance; 44% for hospital-related assistance; and the remaining three billion Euros for specific earmarked objectives.

In order to foster **the coverage and quality of screening programs, two strategies have been put in place** and in order to help Regions to define Regional Prevention to counter inequalities, it has been financed a specific project involving 6 Regions.

Madam Chairperson,

Turning to **HIV-Aids**, the Health-Care National Institute publishes, in its periodic reporting, statistical data on HIV infections, disaggregated by age and sex. Within this framework, as a way of example, by Law No. 296/2016 the Ministry of Health financed, upon proposal by the AIDS Council, three projects for the prisons system.

Since the entry into force of **Act No. 194/1978 on abortion, Ministry of Health submits to Parliament an annual report**. Data on conscientious objection has been always collected at a regional level; and since 2013, with the inception of Minister of Health Beatrice Lorenzin, data-collection takes place at a single facility level. The number of non-objectors who perform abortion has remained stable and needs to be assessed in relation to the number of abortions performed. In 1983, abortions were 233.976: a number more than halved by 2014, with 96.578. Over this period, the number of non-objecting medical practitioners was substantially unchanged: some 1600 in 1983; and some 1400 in 2014. **By analysing data at a sub-regional level, only three out of 140 Local Health-care Facilities (in Italian, ASL) depart from the national and regional average.**

Madam Chairperson,

Women in rural areas

In 2015, women in rural areas were 22 million (= 69% of Italian women). There are numerous regional and local initiatives, to enhance women's participation and access to farming. Under the National Rural Network (2014-2020), the Ministry of Agriculture (acronym in Italian, Mipaaf) promotes several measures.

Migrants, of whom 7% are women, **account for 25% of the agricultural workforce**. In 2015, **to combat irregularities in the agricultural sector (which affect mainly women and migrants)**, the Government established (Art.6 Law Decree 91/2014 as amended) *inter alia* the Network for the quality agricultural job, which certifies the quality of agricultural farms. The Parliament also passed **Act 199/2016, to fight against undeclared work and labour exploitation in agriculture (“Legge sul Caporalato”)**, which *inter alia* extends the objectives of the Fund for Victims of Trafficking.

Marriage and Family Relations

In recent years, Italy has been promoting policies to support and develop early childhood educational services.

The Department for Family Policies contributes to the effective implementation of the “Extraordinary plan for the development of early-childhood socio-educational services”. The 2017 Budget Law has introduced additional measures supporting future parents and parents with young children (i.e. “*Mamma domani; Bonus Nido* – being a package of policy actions of a structural nature for everybody and forever; and “*Fondo di sostegno alla natalità*”).

Conclusion

Madam Chairperson, distinguished Members of the CEDAW Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Italy is well aware that there is much more work to be done, including with Civil Society – especially in advancing the role of women, both Italians and migrants, within the Italian society and in eradicating any forms of violence and discrimination against women. Aware of the huge Challenges ahead, allow me to re-assure you that we sincerely welcome this exercise. By thanking you, once again, for this opportunity, I do hope that our dialogue will be fruitful and constructive.

I thank you.