

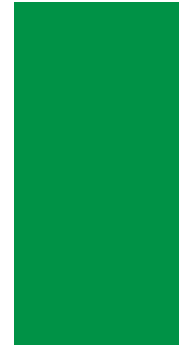
# Pledge by Italy

Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 5 September 1991

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 9 May 2002

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography on 9 May 2002

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure on 4 February 2016



## Pledges

1. Implement the programme “Restorative approach to Juvenile Justice in Egypt”, aiming to enhance the living conditions of children and adolescents in conflict with the law.
2. Implement the programme “In your interest: reaching vulnerable children and their families with essential integrated child protection and mental health and psychosocial support in the Gaza Strip”, contributing to the promotion, protection and realisation of the rights of vulnerable children.

## Commemorative events at the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. UNICEF Innocenti Fil Festival on the state of childhood in the world, under the theme “Childhood in the Global North and South”, where thirty two films from 28 countries were screened over three days in the city of Florence, receiving enthusiastic reception from audiences;
2. “Leading Mind Conference on Child and Adolescent Mental Health”, gathering young people, experts, government representatives and policy-makers to discuss the state of art and new measures to prioritize mental health of children and young people around the world.
3. On 19 June 2019 Professors Gerardine Van Beuren held a lectio magistralis on “The UN Convention on Childhood and Adolescence 30 Years Later”.
4. A communication campaign was carried out consisting of a commercial broadcast on the Rai networks (radio and TV) and a social campaign. The language is simple, speaks to young people and promotes knowledge of the CRC, recalling its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
5. On 19 November 2019 in Rome the event “Growing Rights” was held. There were six round tables in which different themes have been addressed: “A child-friendly city”, “Strengthening the system of prevention and protection”, “The inclusion of vulnerable minors”, “The fight against educational poverty”, “The protection of well-being and the promotion of healthy lifestyles” and “A look to the future: the Convention rewritten by young people”.

6. The book “The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC): achievements and prospects 30 years after its adoption” was edited by the Authority with contributions by professors and researchers.
7. On 21 November 2019, the national tour of “Off-line, life beyond the screen” was concluded in Rome. Developed in 10 stages, with more than 6 thousand high school students involved, the project tells the story of Alice, victim of abuse. The aim is to help children to become aware of the phenomenon and incite them to speak out.
8. On November 25, in Palermo, the Authority met more than 400 primary school students for the project “I bambini parlano diritti[o]” (the children speak the law). The initiative, whose aim is to spread the knowledge of the UN Convention by reading and rewriting its rights, has involved more than 10 thousand very young people throughout Italy.
9. The use of the picture book “Geronimo Stilton. Viaggio alla scoperta dei diritti dei bambini” was promoted: the story, set in Italy, is focused on the search for the Lost Convention, which is found on the occasion of the celebrations for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CRC.
10. The Authority has drawn up a proposal on “The essential levels of benefits concerning civil and social rights of children and adolescents. Proposal for an incremental path of implementation”: in this document four main areas concerned: schools, kindergartens, playgrounds and disabilities.
11. An event was held in Parma on November 20: “The rights of children and adolescents - thirty years of challenges and opportunities”. The aim has been to promote an interdisciplinary reflection on the theme of the rights of children and adolescents, involving children, students, operators, teachers, parents, researchers and those interested in the quality of life experience of children.
12. On November 21, the workshop devoted on “The rights of children and adolescents” was hosted in Turin, to present the last CRC report from which emerges a snapshot of problems and delays that require national and local institutional reflection and renewed commitments in the educational field.



## 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

### Template for States parties' commitments and initiatives

**1) In light of the commitments we have made under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as applicable, we have undertaken the following to highlight our commitment to the promotion, protection and realization of the rights of the child in celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention:**

- **What?** *(Please provide one specific and measurable action that will be taken to implement the Convention, e.g. birth registration for all children; increased access of children with disabilities to inclusive education; deinstitutionalization of all children under the age of XX.)*

Italy considers children rights a priority and cross-cutting issue in its development cooperation policies and actions. In this regards and in order to foster this approach, the Italian Development Cooperation is committed to implement the following programmes:

- “Restorative approach to Juvenile Justice in Egypt” to be implemented as of 2020, in collaboration with UNICEF. The programme aims at enhancing the living conditions of children and adolescents in conflict with the law, through the application of the principles of the Child Rights Convention and of the Egyptian Child Law. The action focuses on promoting the use of measures alternative to detention, restorative justice and social/education reintegration programmes, in the framework of the reform of juvenile justice system.

- “In your interest: reaching vulnerable children and their families with essential integrated child protection and mental health and psychosocial support in the Gaza Strip”, in collaboration with UNICEF. The programme will contribute to the promotion, protection and realisation of vulnerable children’s rights, through the strengthening of Family Centres and the provision of psychosocial, psychological and educational support to children living in economically disadvantaged families.

In this sense, the Three-year Programming and Policy Planning Document for Development Cooperation pays special attention to children and children rights. This means that it will be assumed as a guiding document when programmes and projects are focused on the matter – as for the two above mentioned programmes on Egypt and the Gaza Strip.

- **Why?** *(Please provide the rationale behind the action to be taken, e.g. XX of children are not registered at birth; the majority of children with disabilities do not attend mainstream schools; XX of children currently live in alternative care institutions.)*

The complexity of the rationale behind the definition of a programming or projecting intervention of the development cooperation might encompass a general reference to CRC Convention and its Optional Protocols to be pursued in general and targeted interventions carried out by the Italian Development Cooperation, such as the two above mentioned country-areas (i.e., for Egypt the improvement of living conditions of children with criminal responsibility; for the Gaza Strip a sustained psychosocial and psychological support to children to be able to normalize their situation, continue or return to school, and to fulfil their potential).

- **How?** *(Please provide information on the steps envisaged, and resources allocated, to complete this action, such as through a national policy, strategy, programme or activities, e.g. implement a national birth registration programme; adopt a national policy on inclusive education; establish a family-based foster care system for children who cannot stay with their families. This could also include information on how the impact of this action will be assessed.)*

The Policy Guidelines of the Italian Development Cooperation on the Rights of the Child – that will be released in 2020 (a special event will be organized for their launch) - could be considered as a cornerstone document informing the key criteria, tools and practical actions to be performed by donors and partners. They are currently being developed, in consultation with all stakeholders, with regard to the broad spectrum of the activities of the Italian international cooperation. The document is meant to provide a guidance to all the actors (State actors, NGOs, International Organizations, etc...) engaged with Italy in implementing programmes, supporting and promoting the rights of the children in the field of development cooperation.

Also by using the Policy Guidelines the Italian Development cooperation will monitor and assess allocated the amount of 6.2 million Euros to finance the two mentioned programs, to be conducted with UNICEF, in the period 2020-21, in order to respond to the needs highlighted above: support the relevant Egyptian Authorities to fully implement the Child Law and to assist the youth in the Gaza Strip.

- **When?** *(Please provide a deadline within the next 5 years for completing this action, e.g. by 2022.)*

The monitoring and evaluation of the results descending upon the implementation of the above mentioned new Policy Guidelines, with a specific focus on CRC Convention and its Optional Protocols' provisions, reflects the periodic annual and multi-annual assessment over the Italian Development Cooperation activities and interventions. In this context, in relation to the aforementioned targeted actions in Egypt and in the Gaza strip, the programmes will be completed in the next two years, e.g. by 2021.

- **Who?** *(Please provide the name of the Government ministry or agency who will take the lead in implementing and monitoring this action, as well as implementing partners including civil society and children's organizations, e.g. Ministry of Social Affairs or Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with XX civil society organizations.)*

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation – General Directorate for Development Cooperation, in collaboration with the Italian Agency of Development Cooperation.

**2) We have made the following plans to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention:**

*(Please provide information, including dates and venues, on any events or activities planned by the State party to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention.)*

In order to increase awareness, momentum and action on the 30th anniversaries of the Convention, the UNICEF Research Institute in Italy and the 600th anniversary of the “Spedale degli Innocenti” (the most ancient child-care institution in the Country) , Italy organized, through the contribution of the Italian Development Cooperation, other two major events:

1. The first ever UNICEF Innocenti Film Festival on the state of childhood in the world, under the theme “Childhood in the Global North and South”, where thirty two films from 28 countries

were screened over three days in the city of Florence, receiving enthusiastic reception from audiences;

2. with UNICEF and WHO the first ever “Leading Mind Conference on Child and Adolescent Mental Health”, gathering young people, experts, government representatives and policy-makers to discuss the state of art and new measures to prioritize mental health of children and young people around the world.

An event was hosted on 19 June 2019 at the UNICEF Innocenti Institute Research Centre in Florence, in order to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the CRC Convention and to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the UNICEF Innocenti Institute and the Centenary of Save the Children dedicated to “The rights of children and adolescents facing contemporary challenges. Professors Gerardine Van Beuren held a lectio magistralis on “The UN Convention on Childhood and Adolescence 30 Years Later”.

The National Authority for Childhood and Adolescence has scheduled a large amount of initiatives and events during the year 2019. More specifically, a communication campaign has been carried out, discussion tables and meetings with children and adolescents have been planned, recommendations and studies will be published and, finally, a proposal on the essential levels of performance will be presented.

The communication campaign was carried out together with the Department for Information and Publishing of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. It consists of a commercial broadcast on the Rai networks (radio and TV) and a social campaign. The language is simple, speaks to young people and promotes knowledge of the CRC, recalling its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

On Tuesday 19 November in Rome the event “Growing Rights” was held. There were six round tables in which different themes have been addressed: “A child-friendly city”, “Strengthening the system of prevention and protection”, “The inclusion of vulnerable minors”, “The fight against educational poverty”, “The protection of well-being and the promotion of healthy lifestyles” and “A look to the future: the Convention rewritten by young people”. Each one was attended by the adolescents of the Girls' and Boys' Council of the Authority and the ENYA project, promoted by the related European network.

The book “The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC): achievements and prospects 30 years after its adoption” was edited by the Authority with contributions by professors and researchers.

In the theatre of the Morgagni High School in Rome, on 21 November 2019, the national tour of “Off-line, life beyond the screen” was concluded. It has been an traveling project of the Authority in collaboration with “Un'altra storia” association and the contribution of the press officer Luca Pagliari. Developed in 10 stages, with more than 6 thousand high school students involved, the project tells the story of Alice, victim of abuse. The aim is to help children to become aware of the phenomenon and push them to talk. At the closing event there were about 300 students and Alice, as the key actress of the “dodididue” docufilm.

On November 25, in the Cinema “De Seta” at the Cantieri Culturali alla Zisa in Palermo, the Authority met more than 400 primary school students for the project “I bambini parlano diritti[o]”. The initiative, whose aim is to spread the knowledge of the UN Convention by reading and rewriting its rights, has involved more than 10 thousand very young people throughout Italy and has been made possible thanks to the collaboration of the “Così per gioco” association.

The use of the picture book “Geronimo Stilton. Viaggio alla scoperta dei diritti dei bambini” released by the Authority thanks to Piemme editor was promoted: the story, set in Italy, is focused on the search for the Lost Convention, which is found on the occasion of the celebrations for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CRC.

Finally the Authority has drawn up a proposal on “The essential levels of benefits concerning civil and social rights of children and adolescents. Proposal for an incremental path of implementation”: in this document four main areas concerned: schools, kindergartens, playgrounds and disabilities. In addition, various studies and research will be published on children's rights.

Another relevant event was held in Parma Municipality on November 20: “The rights of children and adolescents - thirty years of challenges and opportunities”. It was organized by the Education Unit of the Department of Social Humanities and Cultural Enterprises of the University of Parma in collaboration with the Educational Services Sector of the Municipality of Parma. The aim has been to promote an interdisciplinary reflection on the theme of the rights of children and adolescents, involving children, students, operators, teachers, parents, researchers and those interested in the quality of life experience of children.

Ultimately on November 21, the workshop devoted on “The rights of children and adolescents” was hosted at the Polo del '900 in Turin, to present the last CRC report from which emerges a snapshot of problems and delays that require national and local institutional reflection and renewed commitments in the educational field.