

**ITALY**



*MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION*  
*Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights*

**STATEMENT  
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY FABRIZIO PETRI  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
2018 UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON BUSINESS AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

*November 26, 2018*

Italy, in line with what prescribed by the Italian National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights approved in December 2016, is pleased to announce that it has carried out this year a *mid-term review* of its BHR NAP.

The new revised BHR NAP will be available from tomorrow on the Web Site of the Italian Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human Rights (CIDU), both in Italian and English languages.

Since the Italian BHR NAP is a five years Plan (2016-2021), the *mid-term review* did not change the structure of the NAP, but instead focused on updating the text of the NAP in accordance with legislative and administrative developments, on one hand, and, on the other hand, in a revision of several measures and introductions of new ones.

The entire process of the *mid-term review* took a total of 9 months of work, divided in three main moments: the Institutional work, the Multi-stakeholder dialogue and the On-line consultations.

- 1) The Institutional work was carried out by the Steering committee (acronym: GLIDU) and consisted in:
  - i) A preliminary general overview of the first two years of implementation of the BHR NAP;
  - ii) a revision of those measures - of Pillar I and III - that needed adjustment and the introduction (or in some case suppression) of new ones in accordance with recent legislative or administrative developments;
  - iii) the indication for each measure of the competent Administration(s);
  
- 2) The Multi-stakeholder dialogue took place between the months of May and June, and consisted in three meetings involving almost 80 different entities. They

included NGO's, Trade Unions, several Big and Medium Enterprises, Business Federations (such as, for instance, the Italian Confederation of Industrialists - Confindustria), Academic Institutions, Human Rights Defenders organizations, Students organizations, independent experts and so on so forth.

The dialogue was very open and interactive, new ideas and specific measures were proposed.

- 3) After the Multi-stakeholder consultation, the Steering Committee decided which suggestions to accept and subsequently a first text of revised BHR NAP was released on the Web site of the CIDU, for the On-line consultation process. The on-line consultation started August 9 and ended September 15. The aim of the On-line consultation was double: to open the dialogue also to foreign entities (the text was also in English) and to give to all the multi-stakeholder a second possibility to interact.

Ten organizations participated to the on-line consultations (among others, Confindustria, Enel, Global Reporting Initiative, Human Rights International Corner).

After the on-line consultation, the Steering Committee decided which suggestions to adopt and subsequently the Plenary Session of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human Rights adopted the revised BHR NAP.

As you may know the Italian BHR NAP has been recognized – among others by the Danish Institute for Human Rights – for its consistent focus on the vulnerable categories (childhood, persons with disabilities, LGBTI, migrants, women), and this aspect of the NAP has been reinforced by the mid-term review. In particular, there is a further stress on the gender perspective.

Since one of the most important achievements in the last two years is the education and training in the field of BHR, especially with lawyers and magistrates, the revised BHR NAP

extends the formation also to new categories, and specifically to journalist and managers of communication companies. Indeed both newspapers and televisions are enterprises.

The mid-term review reinforced also the measures in favor of the Human Rights Defenders and it is our hope that such area could find more and more strength in the implementation of the NAP.

Finally, I would like to highlight two things:

- First: underline that in our experience in Italy the BHR sector of the Human Rights is receiving growing attention both from the Academic world – by almost all the most important Italian Universities - and the liberal professions, starting with lawyers and their Associations;
- Second: recall that in accordance with a measure of the Italian BHR NAP, Italy has asked the UN BHR Working Group to start the discussion for the establishment of a mechanism of peer review for the existing National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights.

Let me conclude connecting the BHR to the 2030 Agenda, by saying that Human Rights and sustainable developments are the keys to putting again the human dignity at the centre of our present. The protection and respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms is our most precious common heritage and as such, it has to be faithfully safeguarded but also projected with confidence into the future.