**ITALY**

***Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation***

*Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights*

*Comitato Interministeriale per i Diritti Umani*

**ITALY’S CONTRIBUTION TO**

**A consultancy study on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights**

**(A/HRC/RES/41/19, para. 13)**

***February 2021***

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**1. Please share your views on the contribution of development in promoting and protecting human rights, including its context, concept, specific aspects and means of implementation.**

Contribution of development to:

(1) Civil and political rights.

(2) Economic, social and cultural rights.

(3) The right to peace, the right to development, environmental rights, and digital rights.

*The Law 125/2014 regulating the Italian Development Cooperation (IDC) sets human rights as one of its main goals. It assigns the IDC the task to promote human rights, the dignity of human being, gender equality, fair opportunities for all, as well as the principles of democracy and rule of law.*

*It also assigns IDC the goals of contributing to conflict prevention, promotion of peace and reconciliation and supporting democracy, as well as the goals to eradicate poverty, to reduce inequalities, to improve conditions of life of the populations and to promote sustainable development. That in accordance with the programs and strategies of the United Nations and other International organizations as well as the European Union.*

*The objectives stated by the law are particularly relevant because they focus on various aspects of the human rights promotion and protection as a condition for a sustainable development. Thus anticipating the integrated approach of the Agenda 2030 and of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015.*

**2. How to ensure that development contributes to promoting and protecting human rights?** (The principles, strategies, policies and laws, action plans and programmes of development, what contents are important and what responsibilities should be taken into account)

*The IDC is committed to incorporating in its programmes – both of development and humanitarian nature - measures aimed at assuring that the safeguard of human rights is considered as an objective in itself, as well as a an inspiring principle in initiatives more directly oriented in pursuing economic development and peace promotion.*

*These elements are set, together with the principles of coherence and efficacy, in its Three Year Strategy Plan guiding all the Italian public and private stakeholders contributing to the implementation of activities financed by ODA.*

**3. Please share any concrete examples of best practices of contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights.** Challenges, obstacles, lessons learned and experience with regard to principles, strategies, law and policies, action plans and programmes, the role of communities, organizations, and individuals and/or other stakeholders.

*The protection of human rights is transversal to all the actions performed by the Italian Cooperation around the world. We would like to mention specific actions to protect the rights of women and girls already put in place together with the United Nations Agencies.*

*In this perspective, one of Italy’s key commitments is represented by the struggle against female genital mutilations. In a 14-year-long effort together with the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme, Italy has allocated 23 million euros, a contribution that ranks our Country among the top donors. The aim of the Programme is to reduce this practice among girls from 0 to 15 years of age and favour the total elimination of female mutilations in at least one country. In 2013, the Foreign Ministry’s Directorate General for Development Cooperation, in association with the UNFPA and UNICEF, organised an international conference in Rome entitled “Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations”. Thirty governments, parliaments and representatives of civil society organisations closed the Conference by signing Moving Forward, a declaration later cited by the United Nations General Assembly. The document, in addition to setting forth initiatives to advance the abandonment of the practice of mutilations, also affirms the right of girls and women not to be discriminated. The Joint Programme has achieved tangible results: 13 Countries have passed a regulatory framework to eliminate the practice, 17 Countries have created a national coordinating mechanism in this respect and 12 Countries have a dedicated budget heading and targeted programmes. In these Countries, 2.3 million girls and women have received protection and access to welfare services and more than 25 million individuals belonging to 18,000 communities in 15 Countries have uttered the “Declaration of Abandonment”.*

*Another action of the Italian Development Cooperation in 2018 in favor of women provided medical services and economic advice to the women struck by the war in Syria, especially in the Raqqa Governorate. In this case, the project was promoted jointly with the UNFPA and with the UN Development Program (UNDP) and started off thanks to the 2-million-euro fund allocated to the victims of gender violence. In addition to medical assistance, the women received education and training in order to start up small businesses in the agricultural sector and thus better meet the needs of their family units.*

*In 2018, the Italian Development Cooperation service also implemented an action plan to help displaced people in the Nineveh Plains, in Iraq’s autonomous region of Kurdistan. The specific beneficiaries of the help provided through UNICEF were the girls kidnapped by ISIS/Daesh who received medical and psychological assistance after they were released.*

**4. Are there any other aspects relating to the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights for all that you would recommend for the study to focus on?**

*Italy has always been highly committed in the area of disability and protection of fragile people, by adopting pertinent guidelines for its activities and incorporating element of inclusiveness of disabled persons in its development and humanitarian programmes.*

**5. If you have differing views on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights for all, please explain and provide examples if possible.**