**

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

***Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights***

***Italy contribution pursuant to the request of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons on the Human Rights of Older Women***

***March 2021***

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**OHCHR request for the compilation of a report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the Human Rights of Older Women**

Following to your query, Italian Authorities are in a position to provide the following information in relation to the request “Submission to the call for contributions on older women – 2021”.

As per the national programming measures on older people, including older women, Italy does not have a National Action Plan on older persons yet. However, in 2019, the Italian Government launched a national coordination initiative, under the responsibility of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Department for Family Policies, aimed at establishing a shared and participated model of intervention for the promotion of active ageing in Italy. This 3-year National Project for a Multi-level Coordination of Active Ageing Policies (http://famiglia.governo.it/it/politiche-e-attivita/invecchiamento-attivo/progetto-di-coordinamento-nazionale/) involves all governmental levels (Municipalities, Provinces, Metropolitan Cities, Regions and Central authorities), NGOs and representatives of academia.

The project addresses and contributes to the achievement of international policy goals linked to ageing, including the commitments made by the States within the framework of the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy of the UN-Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA/RIS), namely: Mainstreaming ageing; Integration and participation; Economic growth; Social security; Labour markets; Lifelong learning; Quality of life, Independent living and health; Gender equality; Support to families providing care; Regional co-operation). It also promotes the achievement of 9 out of 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely those having specific implications for older people (No poverty; Good health and well-being; Quality Education; Gender Equality; Decent work and economic growth; Reduced inequalities; Sustainable cities and communities; Peace, justice and strong institutions; Partnerships for the goals).The project is also aligned with the Italian National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2017–2030, adopted on 22 December 2017.

As already mentioned, the project aims at creating a multilevel, co-managed coordination of Active Ageing (AA) policies, by involving a network of national and regional policy makers, experts, researchers and stakeholders in civil society. The ad-hoc consultation process established for this purpose helps the recognition of different interests and expectations on AA, fostering new solutions through the involvement, consultation and joint discussion of policy options. At the end of the period covered by the project, it is expected that the way is paved for an Italian AA Strategy to be elaborated and launched to ensure a long-term, sustainable impact on national and regional policy makers, civil society and research community.

The ultimate goals of this 3-year project are therefore: to (1) advance the knowledge about the current status of AA policies; (2) produce an evidence-based set of policy recommendations; and (3) provide advice to (regional and national) policy makers in adjusting their AA policies. The project is managed and funded by the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Dept. for Family Policies, and carried out in collaboration with the National Institute of Health and Sciences on Ageing (INRCA) and the National Institute for Public Policy Analysis (INAPP). In November 2020,a Technical Report of the project, entitled on “National multilevel co-managed coordination of active ageing policies in Italy”, was released and is aimed at providing the methodology for estimation of the Active Ageing Index (AAI) with Italian national data sources. In order to measure the level of active ageing and degree of potential realization in all the 20 Italian regions, the data from ISTAT national surveys were used. The primary focus of the estimation was to reduce possible discrepancies of the Italian regional Index from the original UNECE Active Ageing Index. The next step will consist in the compilation – through a consultative/co-decisional process - and release of the Guidelines for policy making on active ageing, with the aim of providing indications and recommendations for policy making in this field based on: the results of the analysis of good practices, and further inputs from the stakeholders’ network.

Within the framework of the international activities on ageing carried out by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Dept. for Family Policies in collaboration with the international organizations, particularly worth mentioning is that, in 2020, Italy officially offered to co-organize, completely fund, and host in Rome the 5th UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing. The Conference will therefore take place in Rome in May 2022, on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of the MIPAA/RIS. Besides following up on the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration, the 2022 UNECE Ministerial Conference in Rome will provide the opportunity to take stock of the lessons learned, developments and achievements on ageing recorded over the last two decades and review the RIS while improving its links to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Discussions on the structure of the event are still ongoing within the relevant UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing, but the experts’ panels and ministerial roundtables will be focused on all MIPAA’s main aspects. The prevention of and fight against ageism, and age and gender-based discrimination, as well as a gender dimension including the protection and promotion of the human rights of older women will be mainstreamed into all the 3 sessions.

A comprehensive quantitative data collection on ageism is provided in our Country by the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT). Elders.Stat is the data warehouse that collects and organizes statistical data produced by ISTAT on population ageing in its different aspects, in order to make them more accessible to any kind of user (policy makers, researchers, journalists, citizens). The amount of data available will be increased in the coming months with information on Culture, mass-media and new technologies, Health conditions, Prevention and health promotion, Informal care networks, Relations, Social participation, Satisfaction and interpersonal trust. Data are organized in a homogeneous and coherent way and they are constantly upgraded.

The last report published by ISTAT on 15 October 2020 on data collected within 31 December 2019 is focused on Social and health residential structures. The survey detects the supply of social and health residential facilities and the types of users assisted, to document more accurately both users and resources committed to this territorial assistance. In particular, the survey, which is carried out annually, surveys all public or private facilities that provide residential services (assisted accommodation with overnight stay) of a social welfare and/or social-health kind. These facilities provide accommodation for people in need for various reasons: elderly people living alone or with health problems, people with disabilities, minors without guardianship, young women in difficulty, foreigners or Italian citizens with economic problems and social hardship, people who are victims of gender-based violence.

As per the impact of Covid-19 on women’s rights, a Task Force named “Women for a new Renaissance” was established under the leadership of the Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family; it is composed of 12 women representing several sectors and has been convened firstly on 15 April 2020 on streaming in order to draft ideas and proposal for the post-Covid-19 social, cultural and economic restart. The main tasks of this Task Force have been to:

• produce analysis and scientific evidence relating to the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on gender issues;

• formulate proposals to increase the percentage of women in all areas of work, to overcome barriers to advancement in career paths, especially in the fastest growing fields (STEM, computer computing, cloud computing, data and artificial intelligence, etc.), to contrast gender stereotypes that prevent women from reaching leadership positions and to build a more inclusive sustainable future for all;

• draw up a policy document with the definition of priorities and policies in operational terms to address the challenges for gender equality in all sector and to strengthen the presence and role of women in all the areas examined, with a focus on the social, cultural and economic revival of Italy after the epidemiological emergency from Covid-19.

The Task Force was divided into thematic sub-groups to release a final Note, which is based on data and scientific evidence on the impact of the pandemic in different sectors and introduces a first series of proposal for actions and recommendations that will be integrated through the planning activities of the Department for Equal Opportunities.