**

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

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

***Reply to the Call for Contributions: Example of a Human Rights-Based Approach to***

***Universal Health Coverage***

***April 2023***

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**Reply to the Call for Contributions: Example of a Human Rights-Based Approach to Universal Health Coverage**

Following the request from the competent Special Rapporteur, Italian authorities are pleased to provide the following contribution.

The current national health system provides, with a view to health coverage in the post-pandemic perspective, two programmatic instruments under definition and to be implemented, with ad hoc financial resources: the National Vaccine Prevention Plan and the Health Emergency Plan, the latter including adequate funding for the National Strategic-Operational Plan for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response (PanFlu) 2021-2023.

Within this framework, according to keywords such as proximity, innovation and equality, the sixth Mission of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) has been elaborated and funded through the European Union's Next Generation Europe program.

The NRRP allocated € 15.63 billion, or 8.16 percent of the total amount, to this Health Mission to support major reforms and investments for the benefit of the National Health Service, to be implemented by 2026. But overall, extraordinary resources for the implementation of the NRRP and the renewal of Italian public health exceed €20 billion. These include resources put in place by Italy via the National Plan for Complementary Investments to the NRPP (PNC), which allocates an additional 2.89 billion euros to health issues.

On a general note the Health Mission is aimed at achieving several objectives: adapt our National Health Service to a changed demographic and epidemiological context; ensure equality in the fulfilment of health needs, regardless of gender and socioeconomic conditions; make the network of territorial primary care able of responding to health needs left uncovered by the rationalization of hospitals’ network; make health supply accessible in the whole territory, in terms of prevention and treatment, eliminating geographic disparities, particularly between North and South; take full advantage of opportunities for improving health supply arising from the use of technological innovation, the advancement of research in the medical field and the enhancement of health personnel.

The interventions of the Health Mission, to be achieved by 2026, are divided into two main areas: redesigning the network of territorial health care with professionals and services available nationwide, for health care that is close and proximate to people; innovating the hospital technology park, digitizing the National Health Service and investing in research and training of the health workforce for safer, more equitable and sustainable health care.

With this in mind, the interventions of the Health Mission are divided into two Components, each of which includes a Reform and specific Investments: Component 1 - Neighborhood Networks, Facilities and Telemedicine for Territorial Healthcare; Component 2 - Innovation, Research and Digitization of the National Health Service.

In this framework, targeted interventions will also be developed through the funds of the Equity in Health National Plan in the southern Italian regions to ensure access to health and social-health services for vulnerable segments of the population.

The new model of territorial care in a One Health perspective is instrumental in bringing responses to health needs as close as possible to citizens. To this end, a Reform of the organizational model of the territorial care network will be adopted and implemented, based on: the strengthening of home care, including through the use of telemedicine; the building of new facilities and health quarters on the territory that improve accessibility and expand the availability of proximity services to citizens; and the definition of a new institutional set-up for prevention on the territory relating to health, environmental and climatic issues, in line with an integrated approach (One Health) and a holistic vision (Planetary Health).