



Italy's NMIRF & LRAs

**Experts' Seminar
Geneva, August 28, 2023
Room XIX**

*Thank you, Madam Moderator,
Good afternoon,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

- At the outset, allow me to thank the organizers for convening this experts' seminar, also, on behalf of *Min. Plen. Fabrizio Petri*, President of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights (in Italian, *CIDU*) to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, that is our NMIRF.
- Indeed, this seminar is a most welcome initiative.
- Turning to the issues at stake, allow me to briefly mention *CIDU's* mandate:
 - *CIDU* was established in 1978 by Ministerial Decree, to comply with the reporting obligations under the two Covenants (ICCPR and ICESCR);
 - This Committee annually reports on its activities to the Italian Parliament, in accordance with a 1999 law. This annual reporting is also available online,

for dissemination purposes, and may also be considered as one of our human rights promotional tools.

- In terms of composition, *CIDU* gathers representatives from basically all central administrative branches (such as Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice), and representatives from the National Association of Italian Municipalities (in Italian, *ANCI*), the Union of Italian Provinces (in Italian, *UPI*), as well as from the State-Regions Conference, and the National Institute of Statistics (in Italian, *ISTAT*).
- As for our mandate, the ratification of the main UN HR treaties has increasingly impacted on *CIDU*'s work and activities - which have significantly increased over the years - to which we have to add contributions to UN human rights mechanisms and the organization of country missions by relevant UN Special Procedures Mandate Holders, as well as the elaboration of two National Action Plans and, since 2008/2009, the preparation, discussion, and follow-up to the UPR exercise.
- We do also cover the promotion of human rights at a national level, with activities including HR education and training.
- Procedurally, we have developed over the years practical working tools, such as specific mailing lists of human rights focal points according to the issue to be dealt with.
- We do also set up thematic working groups in order to gather those Administrations that are most concerned with the specific exercise, such as the preparation of a national periodic report; drafting a progress report; contributing to UN studies; preparing the delegations for oral discussions in Geneva; or

preparing UNSP's country missions, including with regional and local Authorities.

- In particular, and as a way of examples, all the above Administrations are involved in the UPR's process, besides MPs/the Parliament - though to a different extent.
- In terms of good practices relating to the above-mentioned modality, I would like to mention:
 - The recent periodic country mission by the Committee on Prevention of Torture of the Council of Europe (CoE-CPT). In this respect, we contacted and involved all relevant central, regional and local Authorities in view of bilateral meetings this Committee wanted to hold and afterwards when preparing our follow-up report.
 - The submission of the Mid-Term Report to UPR Cycle 3 (PiR), in November 2021. In this respect, we greatly benefitted from the High Commissioner's Letter that we received in May 2020. The letter, its Annex, and the relevant UPR Matrix have allowed us to prepare - with all Administrations, including in particular regional and local Authorities - the above-mentioned PiR, which takes into consideration the linkage between UPR recommendations and SDGs and whose Annex is entirely devoted to relevant regional and local Authorities' good practices.
 - Needless to say, next year, in view of our UPR 4 Cycle's consideration, we will involve the above representatives from regional and local Authorities (*ANCI, UPI, State-Region Conference*);
 - The UN CEDAW reporting Guidelines and recommendations requesting a focus on the regional

context. In this respect, we tried to extensively report on it, over the years;

- Also within the framework of the national progress reporting under the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, we prepared, in 2015, a dedicated Annex to showcase relevant regional/local good practices on the basis of information provided by regional and local Authorities.
- More generally, the NMIRFs do and can also effectively promote human rights education, at all levels of the system.
- **Indeed, public awareness and greater knowledge of human rights are needed also to enhance and/or strengthen relevant capacities - domestically, regionally, and locally.**
 - As a way of examples, during Covid-19 pandemic *CIDU* organized jointly with the National Association of Italian Municipalities (*ANCI*) a specific e-training on the UN Human Rights Machinery.
 - Attention was paid to international human rights law and all UN HR mechanisms. Specifically, the focus on the impact of UNTB's Concluding Observations, especially the CEDAW-related ones, was very useful for cross-fertilization exercises among those municipalities' representatives that were attending that specific session (devoted to CEDAW's Convention and Committee).
- While there is not one size fits all formula, the promotion of human rights is a key component of effective national human rights systems and at all levels – national, regional, local.

Madam Moderator,

- Promoting international human rights law knowledge, especially of the work of all UN HR mechanisms, is of

relevance to make the human rights promotion and protection system more effective and, ultimately, to ensure the achievement of the SDGs, at all levels: internationally, domestically, locally.

Thank you for your attention.

Concluding remarks

Thank you, Madam Moderator,

- To conclude, I would like to thank the Organizers for this initiative, which should be seen as an important step within a broader context, aimed at maximizing the impact of the promotion and protection of human rights, at all levels.
- Sharing good/best practices, including from the regional/local level, allows to better connect all the dots of the system - and thus, this should be further facilitated.
- Ideally, systematic consultations and trainings could be beneficial also for areas, such as data collection. And data, as we all are aware, is essential also to better steer relevant policies and measures.
- NMRIFs – in our case, *CIDU* – should engage all the Administrations concerned and get the relevant information besides potentially facilitating cross-fertilization and sharing good/best practices.
- Finally, by recalling the High Commissioner's words, "*Human rights are humanity's common language,*" and "*We need a human rights system that speaks to every human being.*", I think this seminar is to be situated along this path.
- I /we then remain at your disposal.
- And I do thank you, once again, for this opportunity and your attention.