



**CISCOS UGL**

Centro Internazionale  
Sindacale per la  
Cooperazione allo Sviluppo

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## **Multi-stakeholder meeting on human rights of older persons (HRC res 48/3).**

June 16, 2021, Istat and the Italian Commission for the reform of health and social care for the elderly population presented the Report "The elderly and their social and health demand for the year 2019"; this report shows a population of over 75 equal to about 6.9 million individuals, with over 2.7 million people with mobility difficulties and reduced autonomy, of which 1.2 million without adequate help and 1 million living from alone or with other elderly family members; while as many as 100,000 elderly people lack economic resources and find it impossible to access paid services for assistance; This is an Italian problem, but we must consider that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations of 1948 establishes mandatory principles of equality and dignity as the foundation of all civil coexistence; the United Nations Charter, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are among the main acts adopted by the UN which reaffirm the principles of respect and protection of people over the years, especially if suffering from pathologies; likewise, the European Convention for Human Rights establishes the right to life (art.2), the right not to be subjected to torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (art.3), the right to respect for one's private and family life (Article 8) and the right to protection against discrimination in the enjoyment of recognized rights and freedoms (Article 14); therefore, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed with resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982 the "Action Plan for Aging", confirmed and strengthened on the occasion of the Second World Assembly on Aging in Madrid, in April 2002; the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Resolution 46 of 16 December 1991 which establishes the UN principles on the elderly, among which particular attention



must be paid to independence, participation, care, dignity. In my opinion, day care centers for elderly care should be promoted throughout the territory, in agreement with local authorities, at the same time activating constant and efficient accompaniment services with the help of volunteers; adopt incentive measures for co-housing through concessions regarding the internal restructuring of buildings aimed at rationalizing the spaces according to the cohabitation of elderly people; providing incentives for people with elderly family members to work at a distance that make it possible to combine professional services and care and assistance work; adopt tax measures of advantage over the professional figures who assist elderly people at home, often in cohabitation; strengthen, in agreement with the Regions, the constant monitoring of the RSAs in relation to the conditions of the infrastructures and the quality of the services provided, strengthening the supervisory mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the required standards; encourage the training of active personnel in these structures that allows the best assistance work on a professional level and in terms of empathy and dignity of the elderly person; promote conditions in nursing homes that guarantee the frequency and intensity of family visits, while at the same time facilitating the widespread acquisition by guests of technological supports to allow greater contacts with the outside world; carry out a survey of public and private initiatives with different names such as "rest homes", "lodging homes" or other, and - where found - repress abuse and mistreatment of guests; make available and accessible the data on social, health and social care residences aggregated on a national scale and disaggregated by gender and sector (public, private) in order to be able to carry out overall scientific analyzes of the needs and responses offered at national level. For older people, the home and their family must be considered the privileged place for "taking charge" through health services. At the same time, the nursing homes must be open to the territories, families and volunteers. It is also revealed that the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in article 25, recognizes and respects the right of the elderly to lead a life of dignity and independence and to participate in social and cultural life. With the support of the DAPHNE III European Program, the European Charter of the rights and responsibilities of the elderly in need of assistance and long-term care was drawn up in 2010; the Council of Europe, on the basis of the work conducted by the Executive Committee for Human Rights and numerous acts approved by the Parliamentary Assembly, adopted the the 2014 Recommendation to promote the rights of older people in dignity and independence CALLS FOR AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH BASED ON STRENGTHENING RELATIONS.



For this reason, I believe that the government should undertake to adopt policies in favor of the elderly with an innovative approach, based on the strengthening of their relational heritage as the main vehicle for the protection and respect of dignity; to encourage, in concert with local authorities, the activation of proximity services that allow elderly people to continue living in their homes, enhancing the world of associations and promoting home care as a priority form of closeness to society; to promote day centers for assistance to the elderly throughout the territory, in agreement with local authorities, at the same time activating constant and efficient accompaniment services with the help of volunteers; to adopt co-housing incentive measures through concessions regarding the internal restructuring of buildings aimed at rationalizing spaces according to the cohabitation of elderly people; to provide incentives for people with elderly family members to work at a distance that make it possible to combine professional services and care and assistance work.

The government is also committed to adopting tax measures of advantage over the professional figures who assist elderly people at home, often in cohabitation; to strengthen, in agreement with the Regions, constant monitoring in relation to the conditions of the infrastructures and the quality of the services provided, by strengthening the supervisory mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the required standards; to encourage the training of active personnel in these structures that allows the best assistance work on a professional level and in terms of empathy and dignity of the elderly person; to promote conditions in nursing homes that guarantee the frequency and intensity of family visits, while facilitating the widespread acquisition by guests of technological supports to allow greater contacts with the outside world.

**Patrizia Conte president Ciscos – Centro internazionale sindacale per la cooperazione sviluppo in stato consultivo (Ecosoc) dal 2019**

