



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York

**Statement by the Minister for Disability, Hon. Alessandra Locatelli,
at the plenary session of the 16th Conference of States Parties to the
United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
New York, June 13, 2023**

Dear President, distinguished delegates,

Italy is carrying out an important reform on disability. We have long started a process of inclusion and full participation in the daily lives of persons with disabilities.

The CRPD became law in my country in 2009, and we are implementing all the principles of the Convention through norms, measures, reforms and directly involving the different institutional levels and in particular the world of associations and the third sector, as required by our national laws.

But what I would like to stress today is Italy's great commitment to reversing the order of policy priorities: putting persons and caregivers at the center of them; demonstrating that, in order to strengthen our communities, it is essential to invest in the talents and skills of everyone so as to offer and guarantee opportunities and chances in training and work, in sports, in recreational life, as well as in the affective and relational sphere.

The great qualitative leap that we are required to make, all of us, quickly, is to develop the life project for every person with disability, aiming to give continuity, dignity and freedom of choice to each of them.

Our commitment has been relentless to guarantee all children and young persons with disabilities the right to education, the right to be able to go to school, to receive training and to enter the world of work without discrimination, like for everyone else and together with everyone else, and all possible efforts should be made to ensure in particular rights and protections for women with disabilities.

And so Italy also presented the candidature of Rome to host the Universal Exposition in 2030, the target year for the Sustainable Development Goals, and we are convinced

that we can build valuable moments of real, and human, exchange on the topic of inclusion.

The protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and their full inclusion and active participation within the society are also at the heart of Italy's commitment and action in multilateral fora, starting with the United Nations. Both in the UN General Assembly and within the Human Rights Council, we fully and proactively support all the initiatives and Resolutions dealing with these issues.

Furthermore, in line with Article 32 of the Convention, Italy promotes international cooperation in support of the objectives of the Convention, with numerous initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacities of public actors and associations, even in emergency contexts, to protect the rights and promote the full participation of persons with disabilities in daily life.

We are all Persons – just persons. We are all different but with the same rights. And for this reason, together we can do more and more, exchanging good practices of our countries and promoting everyone's right to a dignified life, through concrete actions involving all levels of government and associations of persons with disabilities. All together.

Thank you.