

**STATEMENT OF ITALY**  
**SESSION: “NATIONAL ACTION PLANS (NAPs) AND**  
**ACCESS TO REMEDIES”**

**GENEVA**  
**BHR FORUM**  
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As announced last year, here at the 2016 BHR FORUM, Italy released the first National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights on the 16th of December 2016. The Plan has a five years duration and it has been adopted by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human Rights (CIDU), with a Foreword of the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and current Prime Minister of Italy, Hon.ble Paolo Gentiloni.

The Plan follows the “Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights” and it is strictly linked also to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Plan focuses on Pillars I and III of the UN Guiding Principles, and has a special consideration for the most vulnerable groups, namely women, minors, LGBTI, people with disabilities, migrants, asylum seekers and people belonging to ethnic and religious minorities. Special importance is also given to the link with Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda on decent work and in fact the Plan tackles issues such as ‘caporalato’ and any other forms of working exploitation.

In order to implement the Plan, a *Monitoring and Steering Group* has been established. The Monitoring and Steering Group is also developing a multi-stakeholder dialogue in the true spirit of the UN Guiding Principles. In this framework, on the 20th of November, a meeting took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with all the relevant actors: civil society organisations, human rights defenders groups, private and public enterprises and academia. In 2018 the Monitoring and Steering Group will conduct a mid- term review in order to update the BHR NAP.

Furthermore, Italy is working with the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency: the same 20th of November a Round Table was held to discuss the recent "Legal Opinion" released by the FRA on BHR and focused on Access to remedies. A particular attention has been given to the non-judicial remedies. More in general, I would like to recall that in order to implement the Guiding Principles on access to remedies, the Plan provides for 14 specific measures.

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Italy reaffirms its commitment to the cause of a more ethical and sustainable business and economic and financial activities, something that only a full respect of human rights can guarantee.

