



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

Statement of Italy

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Thank you, Madame Chair.

Italy aligns itself with the EU statement and would like to add some remarks in its national capacity.

At the outset, allow me to express Italy's **sincere gratitude to High Commissioner Filippo Grandi**. For the past decade, you have led UNHCR with vision, courage and dedication. Your ability to steer the Agency through times of unprecedented challenges, while never losing sight of its protection mandate, is a lasting legacy. Let me also commend UNHCR staff and all humanitarian workers who provide protection and assistance on the ground, often at great personal risk.

Mr. High Commissioner, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,

The 1951 Geneva Convention and its 1967 Protocol represent a milestone in our partnership with UNHCR. **We remain fully committed to the Convention's principles**, including the right to seek asylum and the principle of non-refoulement, and we continue to

place our full trust in the core mandate of UNHCR as the cornerstone of the international refugee regime.

Yet humanitarian needs are at unprecedented levels. Conflicts and crises in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Myanmar, Afghanistan, the Sahel, Haiti, Venezuela and beyond, continue to uproot millions, while **violations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law continue with impunity**. Italy is particularly exposed to displacement dynamics. In 2024 and 2025, my country has been the main point of arrival in Europe through the Central Mediterranean route, with over 66.000 arrivals in 2024 and more than 49.000 already registered by late September this year.

Against this backdrop, as also highlighted during our fruitful bilateral discussions last week, Italy confirms its commitment to a **comprehensive approach on three pillars**: addressing the root causes of forced displacement through development and stabilization; countering human trafficking, smuggling and organized crime; and promoting regular pathways for migration, which offer real alternatives to dangerous routes and strengthen protection for those in need.

This vision inspires our **engagement with the Rome Process on Development and Migration and the Mattei Plan for Africa**, providing platforms for cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination, in line with the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum to which implementation Italy will actively contribute. In 2025, **Italy deepened cooperation with key partners to dismantle smuggling and trafficking networks**, signing new MoUs with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan and Ecuador, and advancing joint projects with North African countries, including Tunisia and Libya.

Italy continues investing in regular pathways. Since 2015, humanitarian corridors have safely transferred around 7000 refugees to Italy with civil society partners. We are also piloting labour mobility schemes with UNHCR and the private sector. **Our “Decreto Flussi” for 2026–2028 will reserve the highest annual quotas for refugees and stateless persons**. These initiatives, together with voluntary return and reintegration projects, contribute to a comprehensive, whole-of-route approach. We are equally determined to tackle statelessness and **this year we have joined the Global Alliance to End Statelessness**.

We are also proud to **continue leading the Regional Development and Protection Programme for North Africa**, launched in 2015 and co-chaired with DG HOME. The Programme has financed 73 projects across North Africa and the Sahel, with a total of 92,6 million euros, to strengthen protection and improve living conditions.

Italy considers UNHCR's **route-based approach a key tool to strengthen protection along major migratory routes** and provide real alternatives to smugglers. For us, the Central Mediterranean is a clear priority, and we believe **this approach should become a political priority**, guiding coordinated action by States and partners to deliver effective and sustainable responses to mixed movements.

We support UNHCR's alignment with UN80 New Humanitarian Compact and the Humanitarian Reset, and **commend its collaboration with IOM, ILO and other partners** to advance protection, livelihoods and solutions, **encouraging an even further increase in joint activities and programming**.

Italy is among the main donors to the Agency, with projects ranging from direct humanitarian assistance and healthcare to voluntary return, documentation and resilience of host communities. **In 2025, Italy has already responded with more than 50 million dollars to UNHCR's humanitarian activities. In addition, contributions from the private sector have reached 55 million dollars in the last two years.** We welcome UNHCR's sustainable programming approach, promoting inclusion, self-reliance and resilience for displaced people and host communities.

Finally, we look ahead to the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review in December, where we will take stock of progress and accelerate delivery of national and multistakeholder pledges. Italy reaffirms its steadfast support to UNHCR's efforts to combat discrimination and promote inclusiveness. We will continue to amplify the voices of the most vulnerable and advocate for principled and inclusive humanitarian action.

I thank you.