



*Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
presso le Organizzazioni Internazionali
10, Chemin de l'Impératrice
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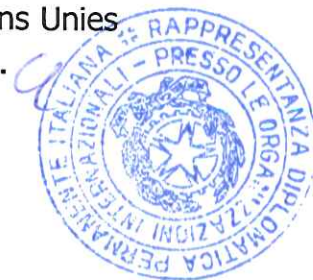
La Mission permanente de l'Italie auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève présente ses compliments au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les Droits de l'Homme et a l'honneur de lui transmettre, ci-joint, une note informative du Ministère de la Santé italien en réponse à la communication envoyée par le Rapporteur spécial chargé d'examiner la question des obligations relatives aux droits de l'homme se rapportant aux moyens de bénéficier d'un environnement sûr, propre, sain et durable; le Rapporteur spécial sur les incidences sur les droits de l'homme de la gestion et de l'élimination écologiquement rationnelles des produits et déchets dangereux; et le Rapporteur spécial sur le droit qu'à toute personne de jouir du meilleur état de santé physique et mentale possible.

La Mission Permanente de l'Italie reste à disposition pour toute demande d'information complémentaire.

La Mission Permanente de l'Italie, dans l'attente d'une réponse, saisit cette occasion pour renouveler au Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les Droits de l'Homme l'assurance de sa plus haute considération.

Genève, 21 mars 2017

Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies
aux Droits de l'Homme
Service des Procédures Spéciales
GENEVE





Ministero della Salute

With reference to the requests of the three Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations (SPUN), in charge for environmental issues and protection of physical and mental health, we communicate the following.

The SPUN are seeking clarification about:

- *the story of "eight children aged between seven months and eleven years living in the 'land of fire' and died from cancer during the second half of January 2017".*

In this regard, the Directorate General of Health Prevention (DGPREV) contacted the competent regional authorities (i.e. commissioner) asking for due checks and investigations. At the moment there is no available data/news from institutional sources and, from a preliminary analysis, it would seem that children of different ages are sick of different cancers at different times.

- *the "alleged increase in mortality rates, cancer-related, in children living in the Campania region, and more specifically in the area known as 'the land of fires'", results from one study published in the Lancet in 2004.*

The regional authorities claim that such data were proved wrong by the Institute of Health (ISS) and the study PASSI (Progressi delle Aziende Sanitarie per la Salute in Italia- Health Units Progresses), also led by the ISS, does not mention a specific increased incidence of pediatric cancers.

The Region Campania also announced that some studies are in progress for research, analysis and monitoring of the correlation between the state of health of the population and quality of the environment: in particular, it is ongoing a specific study, called SPES (eng. Exposomics Study of Susceptible Population), by the Zooprophyllactic Institute and the Cancer Institute of Naples, which is based on a methodology of analysis of different data (more accurate, according to the assertions of the Campania Region), compared to the one adopted by the ISS in the study PASSI. The Region has already completed the first phase of the SPES study: the first results will be delivered in a short time.

The three Special Rapporteurs also ask:

- *"To provide information on the normal rates of infant mortality due to cancer in the region and to clarify whether, in the light of this, the reported cases correspond to a higher than normal rate; please indicate whether initiatives to establish a register of diseases have been undertaken, to collect epidemiological data regarding the affected population, including children, as well as data on morbidity and mortality related to rare diseases and cancer. "*

In this regard, the Region Campania reports that at the end of February 2017 the Child Cancer Registry has been accredited by Italian Association of Cancer Registries (AIRTUM); in short, it will be possible to provide epidemiological data validated for the various types of disease.

- *What measures have been taken to map the areas of the region affected by the problem of illegal waste and determine the exact extent of the phenomenon.*

The Directive released by the Ministers of Agriculture, of Environment and of Health, in agreement with the President of the Region Campania, dated 23 December 2013, established a Working Group (whose composition was recently renewed) aimed to carry out technical surveys for the mapping of land for agriculture in region Campania, including remote sensing instruments, in order to ascertain whether there are contaminants effects, caused by spills abusive and even waste disposal by combustion.

- *What measures have been taken to remedy the environmental degradation of the concerned areas and thus protect the health of the population living there.*

The Interministerial Committee on "Land of Fires" approved, in August 2016, the integrated project for the identification and enhancement of actions as well as monitoring measures for the protection of soils, groundwater and wells in the Region Campania. The project, prepared by an ad-hoc Commission, is divided into three work groups: reclamation and environmental restoration of the areas; safety and strengthening the supervisory and control measures; environment and health with the monitoring of agro-food matrices and more health checks.

- *"Take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of public health and the environment".*

The DGPREV alerted the relevant regional authorities: a downstream analysis on the reported cases will consider whether to plan further actions on the territory, in addition to the aforementioned integrated project approved in August 2016, in order to ensure the protection of the public health and the environment.

- *"Ensure that persons responsible for any violations respond for their actions".*

Law No. 68/2015 introduced in the Criminal Code a new Title dedicated to crimes against the environment; in particular, the environmental pollution crimes, environmental disaster, traffic and abandonment of highly radioactive material, impediment to the control and omitted remediation were considered.

A cura di:

Direzione Generale della Prevenzione sanitaria

Direzione Generale della comunicazione e dei rapporti europei e internazionali