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Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and, following the Letter OL ITA 1/2025 dated 20 January 2025 by the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context and the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights has the honour to transmit herewith Italy's reply.

This Permanent Mission would be grateful for kindly confirming receipt of this Note Verbale and of the attached document.

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurance of its highest consideration.

Geneva,

24 MARS 2025



Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights
GENEVA



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

COMITATO INTERMINISTERIALE PER I DIRITTI UMANI

Italy's reply to UN Joint Communication OL ITA 1/2025

March 2025

Italy's Reply

Further to UN Joint Communication OL AL ITA 1/2025 by the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to nondiscrimination in this context, and by the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Italy is in a position to provide the following information.

Introduction

The (rigid) Italian Constitution regulates the political framework for action and organization of the State. The fundamental elements or structural principles of the constitutional law governing the organization of the State are:

- democracy, as laid down in Article 1;
- the so-called *personalistic* principle, as laid down in Article 2, which guarantees full and effective respect for human rights;
- the pluralist principle, within the framework of the value of democracy (Articles 2 and 5);
- the importance of work, as a central value of the Italian community (Articles 1 and 4);
- the principle of solidarity (Article 2);
- due consideration of the state of need;
- the principle of equality, as laid down in Article 3 (it is also the fundamental criterion applied in the judiciary system when bringing in a verdict);
- the principles of unity and territorial integrity (Article 5);
- the relevant principles, including the social state, the rule of law and the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Italian legal system aims at ensuring an effective framework of guarantees, to fully and extensively protect the fundamental rights of the individual. Indeed, people rely on a solid framework of rules, primarily of a constitutional nature, by which respect for human rights is one of the main pillars.

On a more specific note, the Italian Constitution envisages the protection of all rights and fundamental freedoms included in relevant international standards, such as the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Human Rights Universal Declaration or the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The protection and promotion of rights (be it civil and political, economic, social and cultural or be it referred to freedom of expression or to the fight against racism or to the rights of the child and of women) are one of the fundamental pillars of both domestic and foreign Italian policies (*For further information, please kindly refer to Italy's Common Core Document forming part of reporting to UN Treaty Bodies*).

Turning to the specific issues

Provided that the relevant article 10 of the Draft Law 1236, regarding ‘amendments to the criminal code and code of criminal procedure, to combat the arbitrary occupation of property used for housing’ is a draft law, pending under the sole authority of the Parliament, the elements provided below are limited to the relevant housing-related and economic support-related measures in force.

Housing is a constantly present issue in the Italian social and political debate. The Ministry of Infrastructures has always been involved in the management of urban redevelopment programmes about public housing, which envisage interventions (new construction, renovation, and purchase) also

aimed at energy efficiency. The recently activated programmes are aimed at making 105,685 housing units available, of which 35,376 already completed.

The Budgetary planning for the period 2025-2027 provides for the approval of a National Plan for public and social housing, called '*Piano casa Italia*'. It represents a programmatic tool aimed at defining medium and long-term strategies for the overall reorganization of the housing system, in coordination with the territorial authorities.

Budget Law 2025 has refinanced the Fund for the inculpably tenants with rent arrears, for a total of about 30 million Euros.

Decree-Law 69 of 2024, converted with amendments into law, provided an immediate and concrete response to the growing need for housing. It supports the objectives of recovering the unused existing building stock and reducing land depletion, offering a solution with a view to the full use of buildings and real estate units that have not been fully marketable to date due to administrative rigidities. Therefore, the recent Save-Home Decree ('*Decreto Salva Casa*') is relevant because is aimed at increasing the number of marketable housing units allowing their regularization.

A number of national provisions introduced in the Public Contracts Code and the Consolidated Building Code have allowed Regions, to encourage building restoring through public/private partnership procedures, the construction of social housing and the promotion of initiatives aimed at the creation of housing agencies. In this context, some of the reference programmes for housing and urban regeneration to mention are:

1. The National Housing Plan.
2. The Programme providing for the recovery of housing and real estate owned by Municipalities and the former *IACP* (Independent Institute for Public Housing).
3. The Fund complementary to the *PNRR* 'Safe, green and social: redevelopment of public housing.'¹
4. The Fund called 'National Innovative Programme for the quality of living', aimed at redeveloping and increasing the heritage allocated to social housing, without consuming new land and in accordance with the principles and EU guidelines on *Smart Cities*. Resources have been allocated to Regions, Metropolitan Cities and Municipalities to support 159 Proposals, with around 3 billion Euros. Over the last decade, the overall budget amounts to around 11 billion Euros.

With regard to the interventions undertaken to support people and families in economic difficulties, within the framework of the *PNRR*, the Director General for the fight against poverty and social programming (at the Ministry of Labour) adopted Decree No. 5 of 15 February 2022 for the submission of proposals for action by the Territorial Social Areas. The initiative intends to strengthen infrastructures and services, throughout the country, in favour of fragile and vulnerable persons. Specifically, the sub-investments 'Housing-First' and 'Service-Centres' are aimed at the homeless or extremely marginalized persons.

The 'Housing-First' finances projects for the renovation of housing for individuals, small groups and families. It provides also a temporary housing assistance of up to 24 months for individuals or small groups of individuals, or households in extreme difficulties that cannot immediately access public housing and need continuous care. The funding involves the renovation/upgrading of housing for a minimum of 2 apartments and the involvement of a minimum of 10-15 beneficiaries per project. The essential prerequisite for starting this type of intervention is the recognition of housing as a basic human right.

¹ The 'Safe, green and social: redevelopment of public residential housing' Fund, the Connected Programme, for which an availability of 2 billion Euros has been allocated, for the term 2021-2026, will allow the construction of more than 27,000 dwellings through demolition and reconstruction works, rehabilitation, as well as operations for the purchase and rental of dwellings to be used for the temporary accommodation of the assignees of the dwellings subject to rehabilitation.

In Housing First projects, therefore, the housing inclusion is not linked to therapeutic treatments or employment, but it addresses seriously disadvantaged people or people who suffered from physical and mental disorders (also related to years of life on the street) for whom the house is a primary ontological well-being and, a first step towards a situation of welfare and social integration.

The ‘Service-Centres’ finances projects for the redevelopment of structures to be used as ServiceCentres to combat poverty, in areas easily recognizable and accessible. The Service-Centres will offer to households and individuals, in conditions of material deprivation, extreme marginality and homelessness, accompanying services for access to the entire system of social and health services, will carry out customised evaluation interventions and will offer counselling, guidance, activation of social benefits.

Decree-Law No. 48 of 2023, converted with amendments in into law, introduced the Inclusion Allowance (*Assegno di Inclusione* - acronym in Italian, *ADI*), as a new general, social and labour inclusion measure addressed to households with, among others, children, elderly, persons with disabilities. The new measure provides for the definition of customized social and labour inclusion pathways. The Law provides in favour of certain categories of households, the payment of the economic benefit of the Inclusion Allowance, being a measure for economic support and social and professional inclusion conditional on meeting the requirements of residence and citizenship based on the income situation of the beneficiary and acceptance of a personalized pathway of social and labour inclusion.

The economic benefit supports the households living in rented dwellings. More specifically, the amount of the Inclusion Allowance is composed of a family income supplement up to 6,500 Euros per year, or 8,190 Euros per year if the family is composed of all persons aged or older than 67, and other family members all are suffering from severe disability or non-self-sufficiency. To this amount, a rent contribution may be added equal to the amount of the annual rent stipulated in the rental contract up to a maximum of € 3,640 per year, or € 1,950 per year if the household includes persons aged or older than 67 and other family members all are suffering from serious disabilities or non-self-sufficiency. This integration does not count for the purposes of calculating the family income threshold. The social and work inclusion measure, in fact, aims at guaranteeing a minimum standard to ‘vulnerable’ households not only through the disbursement of economic support but, above all, by orienting the beneficiary towards inclusion, by overcoming the situation of poverty and vulnerability until the introduction or the reintroduction in society.

On a more specific note, we take this opportunity to recall the overview provided under Italy’s reply to previous communication AL ITA 5/2023.

Conclusion

Italy takes this opportunity to reiterate its firm commitment to continue cooperating with UN Special Procedures Mandate-Holders.

Annex No. 1 - Acronyms

<i>DPCM</i>	Decree of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers
<i>ERP</i>	Social (Residential) Housing
<i>IACP</i>	Autonomous Institute for social housing (<i>Istituto autonomo case popolari</i>)
<i>MEF</i>	Ministry of Economy and Finance
<i>MIMS</i>	Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility (formerly, <i>MIT</i>)
<i>MIT</i>	Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (currently, <i>MIM</i>)
<i>PNRR</i>	National Plan of Recovery and Resilience (or Next Generation EU)

