



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights

Comitato Interministeriale dei Diritti Umani

***Italy's Remarks
on the national framework for the promotion
and the protection of the human rights of
persons with disabilities***

October 2009

Italy's Reply

At its tenth session (March 2009), the Human Rights Council requested the OHCHR to prepare a study to enhance awareness on the structure and the role of national mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Res 10/7, paragraph 17).

Following the OHCHR request of information regarding the Italian framework for the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities, the Italian Government is in a position to supply the following information:

Italy ratified the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol by Act n. 18/2009.

This Act provides, *inter alia*, for the establishment of a national Observatory on the situation of persons with disabilities. It is a collegial body, run by the Minister of Health, Labour and Social Policies, aimed at promoting integration of persons with disabilities. In so doing, the aim is to implement the principles embodied by the CPRD.

At the Observatory, there are the following representatives: relevant central Authorities in charge with persons with disabilities related policies; regions and autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano; the local Authorities, i.e. provinces and municipalities; the social security Institutes; the national Institute of statistics; trade unions focused on the persons with disabilities, the workers, the retired and the employers; national associations representing persons with disabilities; relevant NGOs.

The Observatory, which will enter into service at the beginning of 2010, has been tasked with the following duties: a) promoting the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and drawing up a detailed report on the measures taken following article 35 of the Convention, jointly with the Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights; b) setting up a two-years plan of action for the promotion of the rights and the integration of persons with disabilities, to implement both the international and

national law; c) promoting the collection of statistical data on the situation of persons with disabilities, also taking into account the diversities at the local level; d) drawing up the biennial report to the Parliament on the implementation of policies in the field of persons with disabilities, as provided for by art. 41 para 8, of Act 104/1992; e) promoting studies and research which could contribute to identify priority areas for actions and programs for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.