



Franciscans International

A voice at the United Nations

Universal Periodic Review of Italy

UPR-Info Pre-session for Italy

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On behalf of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO) of Sardinia in Italy and
Franciscans International (FI)

Introduction

- **Franciscans International** convened a workshop in Assisi, Italy in April 2024 to ventilate Franciscan concerns in respect of human rights in Italy through the UPR process
- Franciscan Religious, brothers and sisters, as well as lay Franciscans contributed inputs to the submission made by Franciscans International.
- The Secular Franciscan Order of Sardinia was among the lay Franciscans who brought up the issues of **the right to health** and also **the right to a healthy environment** with which this presentation will be concerned.



Topic 1: The right to health

- The right to health is guaranteed as a fundamental right of each individual by Article 32 of the Italian Constitution

Situation at time of submission

- Italy's health spending quoted in submission was 6.8% of GDP, compared with 7.1% European average.
- Gross disparities between North and South (which includes the two islands of Sardinia and Sicily).
- Regress rather than progress on promise to implement necessary measures to limit the regional disparities.



Topic 1: The right to health

Recommendations:

- Take concrete measures to redress the inequitable distribution of health services between the regions in Italy.
- Ensure accessibility to health services in all regions, particularly peripheral and disadvantaged areas.
- Increase health spending to bring it in line with the OECD average.



Topic 1 : The right to health

- Latest update from GIMBE (Independent Health Observer) in its 7th Report given 8 October 2024 reveals a stark situation

Current situation

- Compared to the measures envisaged 19 billion euro is missing in respect of healthcare funds between now and 2030.
- In 2027 public funding will fall to 5.9% GDP, an all time low, in comparison to 6.8% in 2022.
- All the analyses reveal a true and proper "structural fracture" between North and South of Italy.



Topic 2 : The right to a healthy environment

Background

- The right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment has been recognised by the UN Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly.
- Healthy forestry is vital to providing a healthy biodiversity and ecosystem which is a substantive element of the right to a healthy environment.
- Whilst newly recognized there is an urgent need for resources to be made available to uphold this right.



Topic 2 : The right to a healthy environment

Some statistics.

- 90% of the forested areas in Italy are either managed in an unsustainable way or not managed at all.
- 75% of the wood produced by the forest remains there although Italy is the second highest importer of wood for burning in the world.
- Forest fires nine times more likely due to state of mismanagement



Topic 2 : The right to a healthy environment

Recommendations

- Adopt a national action plan on sustainable forestry management to deal with the issues of abandonment of mountain territories; loss of old forest; use of the wood available; and fixing of carbon dioxide levels to ensure that Italian citizens enjoy a clean healthy and sustainable environment.
- Provide necessary resources to implement this sustainable forestry management plan with the technical capacities needed, beginning with forestry under State or local control.

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