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Permanent Mission of Italy
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44th session of the Human Rights Council

Item-2

Interactive Dialogue on the Annual Report of the High Commissioner

30 June 2020

*Delivered by Ambassador Gian Lorenzo Cornado, Permanent Representative of Italy
to the United Nations in Geneva*

Thank you, Madam President,

Italy aligns itself with the EU statement.

Madam President,

COVID-19 represented and it is still representing a test for our societies, their organizations and their resilience to unexpected shocks. As the High Commissioner stated “COVID-19 clearly demonstrates that respect for civil and political rights [...] are beneficial to everyone. It also shows in painful detail that failure to uphold economic, social and cultural rights hurts us all.”

These are powerful words that highlight the need to strongly pursue a human rights based-approach both while countering the pandemic and in the recovery phases.

Italy has been one of the countries experiencing the most severe impact of the pandemic. We have been at the forefront in the most acute phase and we remain deeply committed in cooperating also within the multilateral framework to find viable and effective solutions to put an end to such a crisis.

COVID-19 had a greater and specific impact on the most vulnerable persons. Among them there are women and girls, children, elderly people, persons with disabilities as well as indigenous peoples.

The issues of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including the scourge of female genital mutilation, will be at the attention of the

Council during this session: this is why we seize this occasion to confirm our full engagement for an enhanced protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls.

Finally, this year mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and the 15th anniversary of the responsibility to protect. These are two important occasions to reconfirm our support to the Human Rights Council and to OHCHR and their unique role in preventing, promoting and protecting human rights.

I thank you.