



*Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
presso le Organizzazioni Internazionali
10, Chemin de l'Impératrice
1292 Genève*

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Children Rights Section and, with reference to the latter's note verbale n. RRDD/HRESI/children rights dated 22 November 2013, has the honour to enclose the contribution of Italy concerning Preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age as a human rights concern (HRC Resolution 24/11).

The Permanent Mission of Italy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Children Rights Section the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 13 JAN. 2014



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Children Rights Section
Palais des Nations
Geneva

OHCHR REGISTRY

17 JAN. 2014

Recipients: **I.G. Delgado**
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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights

***Italy's contribution in relation to the request
of the Office of the High Commissioner for
the Human Rights of the United Nations on
the issue of the preventable mortality and
morbidity of the children under the 5 years
of age, according to the Human Rights
Council Resolution 24/11***

December 2013



Italy's contribution in relation to the request of the Office of the High Commissioner for the Human Rights of the United Nations on the issue of the preventable mortality and morbidity of the children under the 5 years of age, according to the Human Rights Council Resolution 24/11

Following to your query, Italian Authorities are in a position to provide the following information.

1) Development of a national policy/strategy/action plan aimed at reducing mortality and morbidity of the children under the 5 years of age / 4) determinants taken into consideration to reduce child mortality and morbidity

The constant improvement in the quality of health care services in Italy has led to a decrease in child and infant mortality.

During the last two decades, Italy has been paying a special attention to the issue of the reduction of morbidity and mortality of children, with a special focus on it in the National Health Care Plans as well as in the National Plans of Action for the Children and Adolescents.

In order to guarantee the unity, efficiency and consistency of measures in favour of mothers and children — given the different, albeit homogenous and complementary subjects involved — at the national and regional level measures have been taken for the creation of an integrated system of services to the individual, focusing in particular on health promotion, assistance to pregnant mothers and provision of care in the age of development.

The **National Health Care Plans** have focused on some fundamental aspects of children's health (e.g. infant mortality and congenital diseases), analyzing past achievements and problems yet to overcome. In particular, prenatal care is a fundamental objective for prevention purposes, and it should be achieved through an interdisciplinary approach by involving general practitioners, paediatricians, schools, leisure centres and the media.

In general, the main strategic objectives to guarantee the health of newborns, children and adolescents are the following:

- To improve care in the perinatal period and to humanize birth by promoting early breastfeeding and rooming-in, taking as well into account the other standards set by the WHO and by UNICEF for the "Baby-Friendly Hospitals"; to reduce inequalities existing among the Italian Regions, with the aim to decrease neonatal mortality primarily in the Regions where it is higher; to optimize the number of paediatric and maternity wards, to group pregnancies at risk and to ensure emergency transportation services for newborns and expectant women at risk.