I would like to thank the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for organising this debate.

I am Antonio Caponetto Head of the Office for policies in favour of persons with disabilities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. The Office is the support structure used by the Minister for the promotion and coordination of the Government's action in the field of disability.

The Office, in particular, takes care of the necessary steps for the implementation of interventions related to the implementation of policies aimed at ensuring the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and to promote their full and effective participation and social inclusion, as well as their autonomy, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The Office carries out the preliminary activities related to the adoption of acts, including regulatory, within its competence in the field of disability. It ensures the activity of information and institutional communication on matters falling within its competence, including the dissemination of positive actions and best practices.

Italy supports the widest adherence to the UN Convention.

It will also be very important to adopt effective actions to guarantee the employment of persons with disabilities and to avoid that the general economic difficulties have an even more negative impact on them.

Italy attaches the utmost importance to the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and the right to employment.

It supports the widest possible adherence to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the implementation of its principles.

The recent appointment of a Minister for Disability is further confirmation of the attention paid to this issue.

Among the various measures taken to implement the CRPD, Italy has established the National Observatory on Persons with Disabilities, which involves civil society organisations and public actors in the drafting of biennial action plans for the promotion of the rights and integration of persons with disabilities.

The full inclusion of people with disabilities in society and their integration into the world of work are top priorities for Italy.

Very important is the development of active employment policies and the improvement of accessibility to workplaces.

People with disabilities have the right to income support that guarantees their dignity, services that enable them to participate in the labour market and in society, and a working environment adapted to their needs.

Digitisation also offers people with disabilities, in particular, great opportunities for equal participation in societies and in employment.

On the subject of labour inclusion, in order to combat unemployment among people with disabilities, the Minister for Disabilities intends to boost two measures already provided for in the legislation (Jobs Act). Definition of the guidelines for reviewing the employment inclusion process, and the creation of a national bank of targeted employment that can facilitate the control, monitoring and evaluation of employment placement of persons with disabilities. These measures may lead to a renewed and more effective approach in the development of active employment policies.

Promote inclusive policies aimed at fostering - in every sphere and at all stages of life - the full participation of persons with disabilities in the social, economic, cultural and political spheres of the country.

A boost will be given to all those policies and measures that, under different profiles, contribute to consolidate an approach to disability centred on the individual project of the person. In fact, it is a matter of making the principles of the Convention effective and, to this end, rethinking the welfare model, in order to shift its focus from protection to promotion of the person, preventing dangerous excesses of institutionalization and forms of discrimination and segregation.