



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia  
OSCE

**AMB. ANDREA CASCONI**

**ITALY'S STATEMENT AT THE 2025 WARSAW HUMAN DIMENSION CONFERENCE  
PLENARY SESSION 4: RULE OF LAW I**

Warsaw, 9 October 2025

Madam Chair,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and wishes to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

Tomorrow we mark the World and European Day Against the Death Penalty. This is an occasion to reaffirm a simple truth: the death penalty is a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, fundamentally incompatible with the inalienable right to life.

Italy's opposition is long-standing and unequivocal. It is rooted in our history and in the legacy of Cesare Beccaria, one of the great thinkers of the Enlightenment, who condemned torture and capital punishment as violations of human dignity. Our position is principled and clear: the protection of human life must always prevail. This conviction underpins both Italy's domestic legislation and our international action.

Italy has always been at the forefront of the international campaign at the United Nations to establish a global moratorium, with the ultimate aim of universal abolition. As part of our candidacy for the UN Human Rights Council for the 2026-2028 term, we will continue to place the fight against the death penalty at the core of our engagement. Concurrently, Italy has advocated for the abolition of the death penalty in other international and regional fora, such as the OSCE.

The death penalty not only violates the right to life, but also inflicts harm beyond the person executed. Families and especially children often face stigma, discrimination and severe social and economic consequences. Moreover, there is no credible evidence that capital punishment deters crime. What it guarantees, however, is the irreversible tragedy of miscarriages of justice. We should never forget the tragic consequences that stem from a discriminatory application of the death penalty, especially when it is linked to unfair trials and used to silence dissent. This leads only to undermining the rule of law rather than protecting it.

Italy, however, welcomes the progress made so far: more than two-thirds of States worldwide have now abolished the death penalty. Yet worrying developments in some regions, including within the OSCE area, remind us that our collective effort must continue. In this regard, the OSCE provides a valuable forum where participating States can exchange ideas, share experiences and strengthen cooperation on such a fundamental human rights issue.

Italy will remain firmly committed to this cause. Campaigning for abolition is not only about changing laws. It is a matter of defending the inherent dignity of every human being.

Thank you.

\*\*\*