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Giro: "Italy committed to protect right to religious freedom". IDLO report presented today at Farnesina

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ROME, November 8 – "Italy remains committed to guarantee religious freedom for each individual", a right that shall ever be subject to "any political pressure, violence, censorship, persecution or threats". These are the words of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mario Giro, speaking this morning at the Foreign Ministry that hosted the Conference "Freedom of Religion or Belief: promoting peaceful coexistence through human rights".

Organized by IDLO (International Development Law Organization) in conjunction with the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), at the core of the conference is the presentation of the IDLO Report "Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Law: current dilemmas and lessons learned".

The report is the fruit of a project financed by the Directorate for Development Cooperation of the MAECI. The report aims to make a contribution to the international debate on the principles of religious tolerance and equality, which is the groundwork underlying the freedom of religion or belief in different national legal orders.

"In a time when the right to religious freedom, among the most violated ones, is threatened", the ground for nationalisms, new or reprised, is fostered, stressed Giro. According to the Deputy Minister, there is no need "to go to the Middle East" to prove that: "Just see what is happening with the xenophobic parties Eastern Europe". This is not about secularism, "but respect for democracy, the rules of coexistence and diversity and pluralism".

Today's event was divided into two sessions. The first one, by the Director General for Development Cooperation of the Foreign Ministry, Pietro Sebastiani, included contributions by the UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, the President of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice and former chairman of the United States Commission of International Religious Freedom, Katrina Lantos Swett, and the Director General of IDLO, Irene Khan.

The second session, more technical in nature, was moderated by Silvio Ferrari, professor of Law and Religion at the University of Milan, and envisaged contributions by the President of the Islamic Religious Community of Italy (COREIS), Yahya Pallavicini, the Director of the Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute, Rev. Nathan Walker, by Paolo Naso, Coordinator of the Studies Commission of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI), and Giancarlo Penza, Focal Point for the International Affairs at the Comunità di Sant'Egidio. (OI)

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<http://www.onuitalia.com/eng/2016/11/08/giro-italy-committed-protect-right-religious-freedom-idlo-report-presented-today-farnesina/>

A man in a police uniform stands next to a large collection of ancient pottery and metal vessels, including vases, bowls, and a large cauldron, displayed on a table.

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