

Associazione Made in Trieste

Thank you, Madame Chair. This year's topic of building trust and social cohesion is very important to us. As an independent researcher, at last year's Forum, I was kindly given the opportunity to run a side-event on this topic. That side-event confirmed how difficult it is for many minorities to access to UN support, particularly in relation to communication. Many experience challenges in receiving responses or feedback on specific concerns, and in understanding UN procedures and follow-up processes from the outside. Guidance can appear unclear, especially when communities lack trusted expertise to help them navigate the system. High costs, limited IT access, and language barriers only deepen the frustration. These obstacles create feelings of abandonment and a perceived lack of interest from the international community, which over time, weaken trust in the UN and, in some cases, lead to tensions, even when the initial aim was entirely peaceful, or simply to verify whether their concerns were valid. Last year, I presented the case of the Free Territory of Trieste as an example of a minority, which has struggled for decades to engage meaningfully with the UN system. The Free Territory is recognized by UN Security Council Resolution 16 and under the 1947 peace treaty with Italy, which remains in force to this day. These instruments also establish the UN's responsibility to guarantee the independence and integrity of the territory currently occupied based on the findings of recent academic research. We have seen recent attention to other situations, like Security Council Resolution 2803, and we respectfully encourage the UN to ensure that older Security Council resolutions, including the one concerning Trieste, receive consistent consideration. This is essential for credibility and for ensuring equal treatment of all communities. In conclusion, it cannot be denied that mistakes have been made in the past, but today there is the opportunity to correct them and to prevent them from recurring. This especially applies to Trieste. It would not only be legally appropriate, but also essential for rebuilding trust, strengthening social cohesion [cut off by Chair].