### Initiative to amend the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

For the attention of President of the United Nations General Assembly, Miroslav Lajčák

for information to Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres


to Ministro degli Esteri e della Cooperazione internazionale, Angelino Alfano

to Ministro dell’Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare, Gian Luca Galletti

December 10th 2018 will mark the 70th anniversary of the promulgation of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. When compared to the pace of change in the cultural and socioeconomic parameters to which the world somehow gradually adapts itself, seventy years are really a very long period of time. Indeed, it can be well stated that the human being of the 21st century has the right to ask that other important rights, which we have become aware of in the meantime, will be recognized. One of the highest is the enjoyment of the “quality of life” in its uttermost noble sense: the well-being that can be offered by general conditions useful to cultural and spiritual growth, which only non-hostile habitats can guarantee. Habitats that today are however threatened by a rapidly changing climate and by an alteration of the Biosphere processes, among which the heavy pollution of air, waters and soils, so much so we can claim it is violated the art. 25, paragraph 1, of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*[1].

### Iniziativa di modifica della Dichiarazione Universale dei Diritti Umani

Alla cortese attenzione del Presidente dell’Assemblea Generale dell’ONU, Miroslav Lajčák

p.c. al Segretario Generale dell’ONU, António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres

al Ministro degli Esteri e della Cooperazione internazionale, Angelino Alfano

al Ministro dell’Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare, Gian Luca Galletti

Il 10 Dicembre 2018 segnerà il 70° anniversario della promulgazione della *Dichiarazione Universale dei Diritti Umani*. Rispetto ai ritmi di cambiamento dei riferimenti culturali e socioeconomici a cui il mondo in qualche modo gradualmente si adatta, settanta anni sono davvero un periodo di tempo molto lungo, tanto da potere affermare che l’uomo del XXI secolo ha il diritto di chiedere che gli siano riconosciuti altri qualificanti diritti di cui nel frattempo ha preso consapevolezza. Uno tra i più alti è il godimento della “qualità della vita” nella sua accezione più nobile: il benessere che può essere offerto da condizioni generali utili alla propria crescita culturale e spirituale, che solo habitat non ostili possono garantire. Habitat che oggi però sono minacciati da un clima in rapido cambiamento e da un’alterazione dei processi della Biosfera, tra cui l’inquinamento dell’aria, delle acque e dei terreni, tanto da potere affermare che viene negato quanto garantito dall’art. 25, comma 1, della *Dichiarazione Universale dei Diritti Umani*[1].
These considerations led to the creation of a promoting committee to request an update of the Universal Declaration, for the integration of the inalienable rights of every human being with the freedom to live into a non-compromised natural environment. The committee is composed of the following realities of the scientific world: ASPO Italia (led by Dr. Luca Pardi), Energia per l’Italia (the Group of Scientists from the University of Bologna led by the Prof. Emeritus Vincenzo Balzani), the Società Meteorologica Italiana (led by Dr. Luca Mercalli), ISDE Italia - Medici per l’Ambiente (led by Dr. Romizi Roberto), Italia Nostra (led by Oreste Rutigliano) and Legambiente (led by Dr. Edoardo Zanchini).

The promoting committee considered that the best way to achieve this goal was to address an Appeal to the President of the United Nations General Assembly to include in the agenda of the next 73rd Session (September 2018) a proposal to amend the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights approved on the 10th of December 1948, 70 years ago.

The modification proposal is as follows.

In accordance with the content of Article 3 ("Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."), we ask for the amendment of Article 25 which in the original version states:

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

These considerations have led to the creation of a promoting committee to request an update of the Universal Declaration, for the integration of the inalienable rights of every human being with the freedom to live into an environment non compromised. The committee is composed of the following realities of the scientific world: ASPO Italia (led by Dr. Luca Pardi), Energia per l’Italia (the Group of Scientists from the University of Bologna led by the Prof. Emeritus Vincenzo Balzani), the Società Meteorologica Italiana (led by Dr. Luca Mercalli), ISDE Italia - Medici per l’Ambiente (led by Dr. Romizi Roberto), Italia Nostra (led by Oreste Rutigliano) and Legambiente (led by Dr. Edoardo Zanchini).

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The modification proposal is as follows.

In accordance with the content of Article 3 ("Ogni individuo ha diritto alla vita, alla libertà ed alla sicurezza della propria persona."), we ask for the amendment of Article 25 which in the original version states:

1. Ogni individuo ha diritto ad un tenore di vita sufficiente a garantire la salute e il benessere proprio e della sua famiglia, con particolare riguardo all’alimentazione, al vestiario, all’abitazione, e alle cure mediche e ai servizi sociali necessari; ed ha diritto alla sicurezza in caso di disoccupazione, malattia, invalidità, vedovanza, vecchiaia o in altro caso di perdita di mezzi di
2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

The proposal is to append a third and a fourth comma:

3. Everyone has the right to live in an environment where the balance of ecosystems is not compromised and where air, water and soil pollutions pose no risk to his health.

4. Everyone has the right to enjoy a quality of life that allows the cultural and spiritual enrichment of himself and of his family. 