



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General

July 2026

Original: English and French

2026 session

13 - 16 July 2026

ECOSOC High-Level Segment

**Statement submitted by Associazione Made in Trieste
In special consultative status with the Economic and Social
Council since 2025;**

The Secretary-General has received the following statements, which are being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

Statement

Associazione Made in Trieste, in accordance with ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31, submits its written statement on high-impact initiatives.

The Made in Trieste aims to promote the Free Port of Trieste and its surrounding territory as a strategic hub for addressing global challenges, as discussed at the United Nations Business and Human Rights Forum in the past years, and other UN platform since 2017. The importance of the Port of Trieste is now even more relevant, especially in consideration of energy transition and the storage and distribution of critical materials.

In 2024 the Association has focused on the international legal status of the Free Port of Trieste within the Free Territory of Trieste (a UN Territory as per 1947 Peace Treaty and UNSC resolution 16), in relation to the opportunities for sustainable solutions in the maritime sector. These include electrification systems, renewable energies and the sustainable development of green hydrogen production. The initiative also envisions cross-border cooperation for the joint management of pipelines and intermodal terminals. In addition, the free port of Trieste has a network of 70 km of internal rail tracks connected to Central and Eastern Europe, representing an ideal platform for fostering startups focused on innovative energy solutions.

Furthermore, the Free Port's bonded warehouses could serve as a central European hub for critical minerals, essential for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. Its unique legal status offers customs advantages and VAT exemptions, encouraging international investment aligned with SDGs 7, 8, and 17.

In terms of recommendations, Made in Trieste recognizes that there are some barriers to the development of the abovementioned SDGs; in the specific, the Port is partially abandoned and underused due to the current occupying power's administration, which through the past 70 years has reduced its operational capacity and workforce, contributing to population decline.

*The present statements are issued without formal editing



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In order to allow the Free Port to operate at its maximum potential, including providing jobs and future to the local population (that has lost more than 100,000 citizens in few decades). It is important to unlock the Port's full potential, and it is essential that the United Nations implement its obligations under the Peace Treaty and Security Council Resolution 16, thereby supporting sustainable development and economic revitalization for the local population, and providing a replicable case scenario to other undeveloped areas of the World.