



# *Ministero dell'Interno*

***Dipartimento dei Vigili del Fuoco, del Soccorso Pubblico e della Difesa Civile***  
**CORPO NAZIONALE DEI VIGILI DEL FUOCO**

Madam President,

Mr Director General,

Distinguished Delegates,

The Head of the Italian National Fire Corps Dr Gioacchino Giomi, thanks you all for the honour of greeting the General Assembly of the ICCROM and delivering the following statement.

The Italian Ministry of Interior, through the National Fire Corps, provides more than 800.000 rescue operations and technical services a year. It is also responsible for fire protection controls on high risk buildings and industrial plants. Thus, it is committed with the protection of human life and the safeguard of property and environment from damages caused by fires, explosions and other natural or human caused events. In such framework, a specific attention to Cultural Heritage safety has been devoted during the last decades.

Rescue operations aimed at limiting damages to cultural heritage involved in the effects of natural disasters has been deployed since 1966 in the Florence flood. More recently, the 2015 Nepal and the 2016 Central Italy earthquakes are the most known large scale rescue operations, within an activity performed every day on minor damages to historical buildings.

The peculiarity of a rich cultural heritage spread all over a nation exposed to seismic and geological risks has obliged the National Fire Corps to enhance its capacity of managing rescue operations. Such effort has been done in strict contact with the Italian Ministry for Cultural



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Heritage. As a consequence, the training of firefighters aimed at the damage limitation of Cultural Heritage have been gradually improved.

Operating on Cultural Heritage salvage after a large scale disaster is not only a matter of number of skilled responders, but also a problem of managing complex scenarios. The assistance to the population, the risks of collapsing buildings, the need of operating with the Cultural Heritage Administration and academic institutions and the difficulties of the logistic chain must be dealt at the same time. The National Fire Corps has acquired the capacity of managing such complexity, also through innovative technologies tested in research.

In conclusion, the National Fire Corps would be glad to share its operational and technical experience with the ICCROM and its partners. A possible field of cooperation could be the organization of training activities on risk assessment and on techniques aimed at saving buildings and artifacts from the effects of disasters.

Thank you so much

Rome, Nov. 30th 2017

Gioacchino Giomi,  
Capo del Corpo Nazionale dei Vigili del Fuoco