



INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

**ITALY'S IV PLAN OF ACTION
ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY (2020 - 2024),
IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 1325 (2000)**



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

Foreword by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon. Luigi Di Maio

Introductory note by the President of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights, Min. Plen. Fabrizio Petri

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FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, HON. LUIGI DI MAIO

On the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325(2000), Italy confirms its full support for the United Nations Women, Peace and Security Agenda by adopting its fourth National Action Plan.

The contemporary world is evolving rapidly. Emergencies, challenges and global changes require the international community, to set new priorities for action in all sectors. To make progress in each of them, the increasing involvement and role of women will prove decisive. Italy attaches the utmost importance to them, by acknowledging their unparalleled ability to transform society for the better. In this perspective, the Women, Peace and Security Agenda is of key importance to the three Pillars of the United Nations (Peace and Security, Socioeconomic Development and Human Rights).

Over the years we have always shown a strong determination to promote women's empowerment at a global level, contributing to the pathway initiated by the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 - the 25th anniversary of which we celebrate this year -, as relaunched by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

By the fourth National Action Plan, Italy aims at a further qualitative leap in the efforts made by Institutions and civil society in the realisation of the objectives set by the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, updating and refining the tools available. In this perspective, Italian Authorities will strengthen their coordination in the multiple and worthy initiatives that will be carried out to prevent and respond to cases of violence in crisis contexts; to promote women's empowerment and gender equality; to increase women's participation in all spheres of economic and social life.

We have conceived this National Action Plan as a 'living document', with the ability of adapting to the changing needs and obstacles, which still stand in the way of women's full realisation.

It is important, therefore, to give continuity to the holistic, inclusive and integrated approach followed by Italy, which finds its effective and unmistakable trait in the breadth of involvement of the Third Sector, NGOs, academia, the private sector and trade unions.

The first statistical evidence gathered by the United Nations confirms that the impact of the economic and health crisis caused by the current pandemic has been hardest on women, girls and children. All of this reminds us of how vital it is everyone's commitment to ensuring security, justice and equal treatment for these groups, fully achieving relevant Sustainable Development Goals. I am confident that this Fourth National Action Plan will enhance Italy's contribution to the pursuit of these noble goals.

Rome, December 10, 2020

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, MIN. PLEN. FABRIZIO PETRI

The emergency experienced during the Covid-19 outbreak has been paradoxically an incentive not to lose sight of the value and importance of two significant anniversaries that marked the year 2020: the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000). Precisely, in light of the consequences of this emergency situation, it has been possible to understand and appreciate the value that these pathways can and should give to peace, security, social and economic development and human rights.

As the Honourable Minister reaffirmed in his Foreword above, it is only by placing itself within the primary perspective of the three United Nations Pillars that the Women, Peace and Security Agenda can truly make its powerful contribution.

On the other hand, we are well aware of how this pandemic has had disproportionate repercussions on the most vulnerable groups, first and foremost women, and women and girls in armed conflicts even more so; in general, on the status of women and girls in all sectors, from the economy to security. A situation that thus exposes them more to forms of abuse and violence, particularly at a domestic level, besides limiting their ability to access health, education and legal protection services.

In this perspective, the growing impact of UN Security Council Resolution 1325(2000), as well as the wealth and variety of legal instruments on Women, Peace and Security, which have already given rise to an Agenda with a particularly cross-cutting scope, now acquire a specific transformative value, indicating the way forward, also with regard to the role of women in peace processes that this new Italian Action Plan aims to seize.

In my capacity as President of the Interministerial Committee for Human Rights (acronym in Italian, CIDU), it is therefore my firm intention in implementing this Plan to continue to promote a multi-stakeholder approach, through an increasingly integrated relevant action, while also supporting the role of Civil Society Organisations as a means for its widest and most effective implementation.

On the other hand, I am convinced that the spirit of great cooperation that has been created with all the parties involved in the drafting of this Fourth National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security - in a collective effort of meaningful value also at the international level - will be a *viaticum* and a support to the enhancement of this Plan in all relevant fora, both nationally and internationally.

Acronyms

AICS	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
ANCI	National Association of Italian Municipalities
BHR	Business and Human Rights
CASD	Centre for Higher Defense Studies
CDU	Human Rights Council of the United Nations (acronym in English, HRC)
CEDAW	UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women ^[1] _[SEP]
CIDU	Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights
CoE	Council of Europe
CSDP	Defense and Common Security Policy
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSW	UN Commission on the Status of Women
DDRR	Demobilisation, demilitarisation, rehabilitation and reintegration
DGAP	General Directorate for Security and Political Affairs (MFA of Italy)
DGCS	General Directorate for Development Cooperation (MFA of Italy)
DIDU	International Human Rights Law (acronym in English, IHRL)
DIU	International Humanitarian Law (acronym in English, IHL)
DPLCI	Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration (Ministry of Interior)
DPO	Department for Equal Opportunities (Presidency of the Council of Ministers - PCM)
DPS	Department for Public Security (Ministry of Interior)
GBV	Gender-based violence ^[1] _[SEP]
GPS	Gender, Peace and Security
INMP	National Institute on Health, Poverty and Migrations
ISTAT	National Office of Statistics
MAECI	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OECD	Organization for Development and Economic Cooperation
OEWG	Open-ended Working Group (Inter-ministerial and participatory)
ONG	Non-Governmental Organizations
OO.II.	International Organizations (acronym in English, IOs)
OSC	Civil Society Organizations
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PAN	National Action Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Objectives
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
THB	Trafficking in Human Beings
UE	European Union ^[1] _[SEP]
UN	United Nations
UNAR	National Office against Racial Discrimination (DPO-PCM)
UNGA	General Assembly of the United Nations
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees (in Italian, ACNUR)
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WIIS	Women in International Security
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

GENERAL PART

Background

Twenty years ago, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security": the first Council's Resolution to expressly consider the impact of wars and conflicts on women and the contribution of women to conflict resolution and lasting peace. In 2003, the UN Secretary-General introduced the 'Zero Tolerance policy', to be applied to military personnel, rebels and *a fortiori* to UN personnel, both military and civilian, in case of sexual abuse against civilians (women and children) in conflict areas. Since 2004, UN Member States have been periodically invited to strengthen their commitment by preparing specific National Action Plans¹, implementing UNSCR1325(2000).

Since 2000, the UN Security Council has adopted further Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security: UNSCR1325(2000); UNSCR1820(2008); UNSCR1888(2009); UNSCR1889(2009); UNSCR1960(2010); UNSCR2106(2013); UNSCR2122(2013); UNSCR2242(2015); UNSCR2467(2019); UNSCR2493(2019)². Within this framework, other UNSCRs should also be considered, such as UNSCR1983(2011), which focuses on the impact of HIV-AIDS on women in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as on the need for specific social, medical and psychological assistance measures (with focus also on reproductive health and family planning); UNSCR1674(2006) on the protection of civilians (et seq.); UNSCR 2250(2015), in which the Security Council urges UN Member States to increase youth representation at all levels of decision-making; UNSCR 2282(2016) on post-conflict peace-building; UNSCR2447(2018) on UN peace-keeping operations; and UNSCR 2532(2020) on the impact of COVID-19.

¹ Mention has to be made of UN Security Council Presidential Statement of 28 October 2004 by the President of the UN Security Council, inviting the UN membership to advance the implementation of UNSCR1325, "including through the development of national action plans". As of today, Italy is among the 86 Member States (see <https://www.peacewomen.org>) of the United Nations that have adopted a specific National Action Plan to implement UNSCR1325(2000). With regard to the "Zero Tolerance policy", it should be considered that crimes are punishable both by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and national courts - therefore no form of impunity can be admitted. Similarly, mention has to be made also of the "United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel", introduced by the UNGA, by which to provide assistance to victims in the form of medical care, legal services and psychological support.

² UNSCR1325 focuses on the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women, as well as on women's involvement in conflict resolution and prevention, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, and post-conflict reconstruction. UNSCR 1820(2008) considers sexual violence as a tactic of war and poses it as a threat to international peace and security. UNSCR 1888(2009) focuses on the importance of increasing women's participation in mediation and decision-making processes with regard to conflict resolution and peace-building. It mandates peacekeeping missions to protect women and children from sexual violence in armed conflict and provides for the appointment of a Special Representative and a Team of Experts on the use of sexual violence in armed conflict. UNSCR 1889(2009) calls for further measures to improve women's participation during all phases of peace processes, as well as for the development of global sector indicators by the UN Secretary-General. UNSCR 1960(2010) provides for an accountability system for sexual violence in conflict. UNSCR2106(2013) focuses, inter alia, on the need to strengthen the fight against impunity for crimes of sexual violence in conflict. UNSCR2122(2013) further operationalises the previous Resolutions, considering gender equality and women's empowerment as key elements of international peace and security, as well as strengthening the commitment to involving women in peace dialogues, and the need to ensure their access - in the framework of humanitarian aid - to reproductive and sexual health services (SRHS). UNSCR2242(2015) encourages the Action Plan to Prevent Violent Extremism - to be soon adopted - to integrate women's participation, leadership and empowerment as the foundation of the UN strategy and response; provides for the creation of an Informal Experts Group on WPS and calls for funding, especially of Women's Organizations, whose work is of utmost importance in this area (See in this regard the UN Plan of Action Against Violent Extremism, UN. Doc A/70/674). By UNSCR2467(2019), support and protection for women's organizations is reaffirmed, as well as the significant impact of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations within the WPS Agenda is also reaffirmed. UNSCR2493(2019) calls for the full implementation of all previous Resolutions on WPS besides urging States to ensure support for the full, timely and meaningful participation of women in all peace processes, including mechanisms to implement and monitor peace agreements.

Italy acknowledges the importance of reading the Agenda 1325 Resolutions, in conjunction with the UN Secretary-General's Reports (the latest of which is contained in UN Doc. S/2020/246), which, over the years, have underlined the need to focus on inter alia: multiple and intersecting discrimination; all forms of human rights violations affecting women in armed conflict; women's economic security; root-causes of violence that need to be addressed through adequate national capacities; removing structural barriers to participation; combating misogynistic extremism; the implications of climate change; the importance of using specific tools such as the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations (UPR)³; and, finally, on a "gender data revolution" on WPS - also in the light of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Similarly, it is to be confirmed the relevance of the UN Secretary-General's Annual Reports on both Sexual Violence in Conflict and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, along with the following UN Documents: the UN Strategic Results Framework on Women, Peace and Security, 2011-2020; the UN Women sectoral Guidelines; the Global Study-2015 on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, prepared by Ms. R. Coomaraswamy (whose results were reported in UN Doc. S/2015/716);⁴ and lastly, the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, as presented in February 2020, before the UN Human Rights Council.

In this context, and in the light of particularly UNSCR2493(2019), which strongly encourages Member States to create "safe and enabling environments for civil society", the UN Guidance Note on "Protection and Promotion of Civic Space", as published in September 2020, is also of relevance.

Similarly, it is to be considered ILO Recommendation No.205/2017, on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience.

Within the present Plan, the most recent international conferences and events, in which Italy has expressed specific pledges, are also relevant. Mention has to be made of the following: the *High Level WPS commitments pledging side-event*, organised by the UK and Germany in April 2019; the international conference *Ending Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Humanitarian Crises*, held in Oslo in May 2019; and the 33rd Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference, held in Geneva in December 2019. On that occasion, Italy presented a solemn pledge open to other countries (so-called "open pledge") to undertake all necessary actions to ensure that children can live in safety and enjoy their fundamental rights, including in conflict situations.⁵

³ (See Italy's First National Action Plan in accordance with UNSCR1325(2000), 2010-2013, p.19).

⁴ Within this framework, other UN reports and documents are to be considered: *UN Secretary-General's Report on Sexual Violence in Conflict* dated March 23, 2015 (S/2015/203); Report of the *Independent High-level Panel on Peace Operations* (S/2015/446); Report of the *Advisory Group of Experts for the Review of the United Nations Peace-building Architecture* (S/2015/490); UN Secretary-General's report to the Security Council, on "*The United Nations and conflict prevention: a collective recommitment*" (S/2015/730); and *UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism*, as adopted in December 2015.

⁵ *Italy's commitment aims, in particular, at: 1) encouraging the widest possible ratification of the First Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children; 2) promoting humanitarian operations in favour of children in conflict zones; 3) carrying out awareness-raising campaigns against the recruitment of children in armed conflicts; 4) promoting initiatives to prevent violence, especially sexual violence, against children in conflict zones; 5) promoting the activities of the Security Council's Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC), of which Italy is a member; 6) promoting the inclusion of references to this issue in the documents of the relevant multilateral fora; 7) encouraging the cosponsorship of the Safe School Declaration, being a declaration - to which Italy is a party - that provides for the commitment to protecting and ensuring education during armed conflicts; 8) ensuring that the needs of children in armed conflicts are duly taken into account both in the training of military personnel and in the planning of humanitarian action by armed forces.*

- **Therefore, within the framework of the present Plan, reference will often be made to "children and in particular girls", in order to reconcile the spirit of Agenda 1325 and Italy's specific renewed commitment (open pledge) on children involved in armed conflict.**

Remaining faithful to its core principles of rule of law, non-discrimination, respect for human rights, democracy and good governance, Italy remains firmly committed to the effective implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security.

At the multilateral level, the Italian Government has always supported the implementation of UNSCR1325, inter alia, by promoting outreach, dissemination of relevant knowledge, as well as awareness-raising actions. Italy also participates in various initiatives organized by other UN Member States and civil society, including in the margins of the sessions of the main UN bodies, as well as the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the Commission on the Status of Women's (CSW). Similarly, Italy strongly supports international initiatives to prevent and combat sexual violence in armed conflict, including the *G8 Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict* and the *Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies*.

Within the EU framework, Italy aims to strongly supporting EU relevant action, in line with EU documents, including: the Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security (Doc.2008 - 15671/1/08 Rev 1); the Indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to the EU implementation of the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security (Doc. 2010 - 11948/10) - as revised in September 2016 (10805/16); the EU Council's Conclusions on Women, Peace and Security adopted on 10 December 2018 (14943/18); the EU Gender Action Plan GAP III, 2020-2025; and the first EU Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) 2019-2024.

In the areas of development cooperation and humanitarian aid, Italy continues to promote multiple initiatives, including specific financial commitments, to prevent and assist victims of gender-based violence and to ensure women's empowerment, also in light of the new relevant Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, Girls and Children. The commitment to recognising Violence against Women as a human rights issue, to challenging *de jure* and *de facto* discrimination against women, and to end impunity for the widespread use of sexual violence in armed conflict, has been strengthened after the year 2009, when Italy launched the first G-8 initiative on violence against women. Since then, support against trafficking in human beings, female genital mutilation, early and/or forced marriage and gender-based violence has been strengthened, both politically and financially.

Italian efforts to implement the pillars of UNSCR1325(2000) and the Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security are linked to the general promotion and protection of equality and human rights of women and girls, within the framework of: the Beijing Declaration and Programme of Action-1995 - the 25th anniversary of which falls this year; Italian obligations under relevant international standards, including UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (Warsaw Convention) and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating

Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), as well as within the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, especially SDGs No.5 and No.16.⁶

Statement of commitments

This Fourth National Action Plan (NAP) reinforces support for the course of action set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) and subsequent Resolutions. More specifically, this NAP ensures that the gender perspective is mainstreamed into all policy areas, which support the concept of peace, and that this perspective is adopted in all practical measures aimed at promoting and protecting peace.

Since the first edition of Italy's NAP on Women, Peace and Security, we have emphasised the growing impact of this issue at both global and local level.

This Plan deepens the efforts undertaken in the Security Council, by addressing the fundamental Pillars of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, as well as by including actions in a wide range of situations which do not necessarily fall within the scope of the mandate of that main UN body.

The Italian Government recognises the scope of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the transformative value of the role of women.

In adopting this National Action Plan, Italy aims to: (i) promote and strengthen the actions undertaken by all relevant Authorities involved in the implementation of this Plan; (ii) broaden the scope of action of all stakeholders - as indicated in Security Council Resolution 2242(2015) and reiterated in subsequent relevant Resolutions; (iii) strengthen the systematization of actions based on an integrated approach. The ultimate goals of the actions undertaken within the framework of the present NAP of Italy are as follows:

1. To reduce the impact of conflict on women and children and in particular girls, while promoting their meaningful and transformational participation in the processes of prevention, mitigation, and resolution of conflict, as well as in decision-making processes, at all levels;
2. To raise awareness, educating and strengthening existing structures, on Women, Peace and Security Agenda and related issues.

Methodology

This Plan has been elaborated on the basis of the following principles: dialogue; transparency; integrated and multi-stakeholder approach. To this end, it was established a national (inter-ministerial and participatory) Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Women, Peace and Security, led by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights.

Numerous meetings were held, which continued to take place, albeit in virtual mode, during the health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, involving relevant

⁶National Office of Statistics (ISTAT) prepares six-month reports on the targets and indicators as contained in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including indicators relating to SDGs No.5 and No.16.

stakeholders, including Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), academia, trade unions and other relevant institutional actors. Against this background, with a view to streamlining, the present National Action Plan is organized around 4 Objectives (thematic areas) - which consider Actions, Stakeholders, and Indicators⁷ reflecting the content of Security Council Resolutions and international and regional relevant standards.

Specifically, this Plan also includes a set of Indicators, inspired by: the indicators contained in the Report of the UN Secretary-General on Women, Peace and Security (S/2010/173);⁸ those contained in the Comprehensive Approach to the EU implementation of the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security (Doc.2010 - 11948/10), as updated in September 2016; and the Indicators contained in the EU Plan on Women, Peace and Security, 2019 -2024.

- In this context, in light of the latest UN Secretary-General's Report on Women, Peace and Security of September 2020 (UN Doc. S/2020/246) and the specific anticipations contained therein regarding the Indicators, we confirm our readiness for a specific update.

By this Plan, we aim to strengthening the advancement of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and related issues, both at the national and international levels, as indicated in the "Implementation Framework" below.

The utmost importance is attached to this Plan, which remains a living document,⁹ Italy is committed to implementing it with a multi-stakeholder approach, through a close collaboration between the above-mentioned Working Group, civil society and other relevant stakeholders. It will be through this multi-stakeholder mechanism that the implementation of the present National Plan will be supervised, also thanks to a progress reporting to be conducted with relevant civil society organisations, in order to ensure its operational effectiveness and a more synergic and holistic approach.

In view of the 25th anniversary of Resolution 1325(2000), this Plan will last four years and will be constantly monitored, including at the parliamentary level, through regular meetings.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The actions and indicators included in this National Action Plan will be used by the Administrations to assess the relevant developments and progress relating to its implementation. Italy will publish an annual progress report, which will be prepared by the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights (CIDU), in consultation with both civil society and other relevant stakeholders.

The Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG), led by the CIDU, will be responsible for the implementation of this Plan, including its application and monitoring. The OEWG will

⁷ Depending on the scope of the Action under consideration, the related Indicators may be either quantitative or qualitative and developments will be measured through outputs/deliverables (e.g. activities, reports, publications) or results (the impact of the indicated activities).

⁸ As later developed in the Strategic Framework 2011 - 2020. Sector indicators aim to be: "Smart", i.e. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.

⁹ With the commitments and projects undertaken by Italy, this Plan, while showing "strategic content", is a work in progress and will be subject to further additions over the next four years.

meet at least once every four months and provide information to CIDU members. The OEWG will review, on an annual basis, the current Objectives, Actions and related Indicators, in light of lessons learned, the EU comprehensive approach, and emerging issues and policy agendas related to Women, Peace and Security, and in response to lessons learned and challenges identified during the monitoring process.

OPERATIONA PART

Implementation framework

OBJECTIVE No. 1

Strengthen – on a continuous and lasting basis - the role of women in peace processes and in all decision-making processes, also increasing synergies with civil society, in order to effectively implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) and the WPS Agenda.

Action	Stakeholder	Indicator¹⁰	When
1.1. <i>Promote</i> the direct, formal and meaningful participation of women and youth in peace processes and in all decision-making processes related to peace and security, as well as to international policy, disarmament and development, also in the light of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda (UNSCR2250 <i>et ff.</i>).	MAECI, AICS, CSOs	1, 6, 10, 11, 13, 19	2020-2024
1.2. <i>Continue to support</i> the growing presence of women in peace and reconstruction processes - also with regard to the drafting of new Constitutions - and in all sectors of society, particularly in the transitional justice and economic-financial sectors.	MAECI, CSOs	1, 13	2020-2024
1.3. <i>Recognise</i> women's participation and <i>promote</i> women's leadership and training to strengthen – on a continuous and lasting basis - the capacities of women leaders and/or women's civil society organisations in prevention, facilitation and mediation at all levels, particularly in national peace and reconstruction processes in pre-, post- and conflict affected countries, as well as with regard to women's representation and participation in top decision-making positions, including in areas, such as DDRR, electoral processes, justice and finance.	MAECI, AICS, CSOs	1, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 19	2020-2024
1.4. <i>Further strengthen</i> the involvement of and dialogue with relevant CSOs and women's associations, both at a national level, including regular meetings with MAECI experts, and an international levels, and develop a regular structured dialogue with CSOs, including	MAECI, AICS, CSOs	6, 10, 11, 13, 16	2020-2024

¹⁰ Depending on the scope of the Action under consideration, the related Indicators may be either quantitative or qualitative and developments will be measured through outputs/deliverables (e.g. activities, reports, publications) or results (the impact of the indicated activities).

relevant platforms, also in the elaboration, implementation and monitoring, when possible, of WPS-related measures.			
1.5. <i>Strengthen</i> the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network (MWMN).	MAECI, CSOs	1, 13, 14	2020-2024
1.6. <i>Further facilitate</i> cooperation and <i>support</i> local Associations, women's Associations and women HRDs, especially at a grass-root level, to express and implement capacities in the areas of: combating gender-based and sexual violence; economics - also within the framework, where they exist, of NAPs on BHRs -, environmental protection, training, decision-making and, in general, in national structures and institutions, as well as in the areas of conflict prevention and peace-building.	MAECI, CSOs	13, 14, 15, 17	2020-2024
1.7. <i>Support</i> the participation of women, girls and children in peace-building, security and stability processes through the implementation of <i>ad hoc</i> activities within development cooperation and humanitarian aid programmes.	MAECI, AICS, CSOs	6, 9, 10, 11, 13	2020-2024

OBJECTIVE No. 2

Continue to promote a gender perspective in peace operations and enhance the presence of women, in particular in the Armed Forces and Polices Forces, strengthening their role in decision-making processes relating to peace missions and in peace conferences.

Action	Stakeholder	Indicator ¹¹	When
2.1. <i>Strengthen</i> a gender-sensitive and gender-transformative approach to the contents of UNSCR1325(2000) in development cooperation and Armed Forces - including through participation in the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives and the EU Task Force on 1325 and the active participation in the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan, 2020-2025 (GAP III), also with regard to the post-conflict phase and capacity-building, education and training related initiatives, including for the Security Forces.	MAECI, AICS, Ministry of Defence	3, 4, 8, 9, 10	2020-2024
2.2. <i>Strengthen</i> policy and planning approaches, in light of the differential experience of women and children, in particular girls, in peace operations, in fragile states and in conflict/post-conflict areas, as well as in conflict prevention/management strategies with focus on priority countries and, inter alia, on: women's empowerment and capacity-building for national institutions, also to facilitate women's participation in reconstruction processes, as well as civil society, in particular at a grass-root level, in line with Act No.125 /2014; SRHR; combating violence - including sexual and gender-based violence - against women and children, in particular girls.	MAECI, AICS, CSOs	6, 10, 11, 12, 16	2020-2024
2.3. <i>Further incorporate</i> the WPS Agenda as a key engagement theme and increase the number of Gender Advisers in peacekeeping missions and in International Organizations (OO.II).	MAECI	2, 3, 4, 5	2020-2024
2.4. <i>Continue to organise</i> relevant courses and for the training of Gender Advisors and Gender Focal Points, with the support of qualified national and international experts. <i>Train</i> staff at foreign training institutes designated by the UN, NATO and the EU (e.g. NCGM, ¹² ESDC, ¹³ etc.). <i>Strengthen</i> the teaching modules included in the courses run by the CIMIC Regiment (military-civilian cooperation) and the PSYOPS Regiment (operational communication), as well as those held at	Ministry of Defence	3, 4, 5, 8	2020-2024

¹¹ Depending on the scope of the Action under consideration, the related Indicators may be either quantitative or qualitative and developments will be measured through outputs/deliverables (e.g. activities, reports, publications) or results (the impact of the indicated activities).

¹² Nordic Center for Gender in Military operations.

¹³ European Security and Defence College.

CoESPU for UN peacekeepers from third countries.			
2.5. <i>Encourage</i> meaningful participation of women in the whole process of deployment to peace operations - including through analysis of barriers to their full participation.	MAECI	1, 8, 13, 14	2020-2024
2.6. <i>Further support</i> the Defence organisational structure, being national and international focal point for gender policies implemented in the military organisation that: - develops the issue related to the adoption of a gender perspective, as indicated by the UN/NATO/EU standards; - organises and manages, at the inter-force level, relevant courses and supports the organisation and management of similar courses within the single Armed Forces; - monitors internal and external communication initiatives on gender perspective, Res.1325(2000) and on the integration of male and female military personnel in the Armed Forces; - conducts statistical studies on this subject.	Ministry of Defence	13, 2, 3, 4, 5	2020-2024
2.7. <i>Increase</i> women's representation and participation in the Armed Forces and Police Forces, including at a senior level, by means of: - communication actions aimed at women; - interventions for the creation of crèches and nurseries for the children of military personnel; - internal communication activities to break down stereotypes (in synergy with the actions, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence, already provided for in the National Strategic Plan against male violence against women in accordance with Istanbul Convention).	Ministry of Defence	13, 2, 8	2020-2024
2.8. <i>Intensify</i> the activities of the Inter-Forces Council on Gender Perspective, an advisory body to the Chief of Defence Staff, on: - implementation of Resolutions on WPS; - equal opportunities; - prohibition of discrimination; - integration of male and female military personnel in the Armed Forces; - prevention and combating of all forms of violent behaviours (psychological or physical ones) due to the gender of the victim.	Ministry of Defence	3, 4, 5, 8	2020-2024
2.9. <i>Develop and intensify</i> collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International	MAECI, Ministry of	4, 5, 8, 13, 14¹⁴	2020-2024

¹⁴ Inclusion of specific modules on children, in training courses for military personnel. Active participation of Italy in the 4th International Conference on Safe Schools.

Cooperation and the Ministry of Defence for the protection of the safety and rights of girls and boys living in situations of armed conflict, in particular through the setting up of a joint MAECI-Ministry of Defence relevant WG.	Defence		
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OBJECTIVE No. 3

Contribute to promote gender equality, empowerment and protection of women and children, especially girls and young women, as well as respect for human rights of women and children, especially girls, in conflict and post-conflict areas, increasing synergies with civil society, in order to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) and the WPS Agenda.

Action	Stakeholder	Indicator¹⁵	When
3.1. <i>Increase</i> efforts to prevent and protect against all forms of discrimination ¹⁶ and to respond to violence against women and men of all ages and children, in particular girls, in emergency, conflict and post-conflict situations - by also enhancing the expertise of the Police and Security Forces, as well as judicial institutions, through specific human rights trainings related to <i>inter alia</i> : the prohibition of incitement to hatred; countering violent extremism and terrorism; and more broadly, issues of non-discrimination, violence and gender-based violence - also in order to more effectively prosecute perpetrators besides monitoring cases of hate crimes, including online hate crimes against women refugees and asylum-seekers.	MAECI, Ministry of Defence. Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, UNAR	4, 5, 7, 8, 13	2020- 2024
3.2. <i>Contribute</i> to promoting gender equality, empowerment and protection of women and children, in particular young women and girls, as well as preventing and eliminating gender-based and sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, by: 1) prevention and fight against harassment, abuse and sexual exploitation, including in international aid; 2) participation in and support for international development initiatives to combat gender-based violence, including sexual violence, against women, young women and girls, including specific awareness raising among community leaders and National Authorities; 3) immediate assistance and humanitarian aid; 4) the rehabilitation and empowerment of women and child survivors, particularly girl-child survivors, living in conflict and post-conflict situations, also in the light of the Ministry of Health Guidelines on <i>Health and rehabilitation of refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, who have been victims of torture, rape, or</i>	MAECI, AICS, INMP- Ministry of Health	10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17¹⁷	2020- 2024

¹⁵ Depending on the scope of the Action under consideration, the related Indicators may be either quantitative or qualitative and developments will be measured through outputs/deliverables (e.g. activities, reports, publications) or results (the impact of the indicated activities).

¹⁶ Including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

¹⁷ Identification of indicators defining good practice (points 1 and 4); Number and typology of initiatives (training courses, conferences, campaigns) carried out in Italy and abroad to combat gender-based violence in all its forms (point 2); Number and typology of immediate assistance carried out (point 3); Drafting of protocols for the application of the guidelines (point 4).

<i>any other serious form of violence</i> , as well as the Italian Cooperation Guidelines on gender equality and empowerment of women, young women and girls.			
3.3. <i>Strengthen</i> the action of the AICS Foreign Offices on gender equality and empowerment of women, young women and girls, enhancing the gender perspective and gender analysis that reflect an analysis of the differential impact of conflict on women and children, especially girls, providing for the establishment of Gender Units in priority countries - also with the possible involvement of the competent Authorities - and where country-programmes have a significant investment on GEWE, creating a monitoring and data collection system, including indicators targeting the needs of vulnerable groups.	AICS	6, 9, 10, 11, 16	2020-2024
3.4. <i>Support</i> international diplomatic and political processes to strengthen repressive action against sexual violence and other forms of violence in conflict situations ¹⁸ and ensure accountability for IHRL and IHL violations, including those that fall within international crimes such as war crimes and crimes against humanity, of which women and children, in particular girls, are victims.	MAECI, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice, CSOs	14, 15, 17	2020-2024
3.5. <i>Promote</i> the advancement and protection of the human rights of women, children and vulnerable groups affected by conflict and post-conflict, to help ensure their safety, mental and physical health, in particular sexual and reproductive health, well-being, economic security and equal rights and duties by further strengthening the involvement and dialogue with CSOs actively involved in this sector and with women's associations both at the national and international levels, also by paying specific attention to victims of trafficking and human smuggling and by strengthening the expertise of operators involved in peace and security operations, in pre- and post-conflict areas and of operators working with asylum-seekers and refugees, in particular about: human rights and gender equality from an intercultural perspective; gender health determinants from an intercultural perspective; causes and consequences of gender-based violence from an intercultural perspective; and the importance of territorial civil society networks.	Ministry of Interior - DPLCI National Commission on Asylum, AICS, INMP- Ministry of Health, DPO-PCM, CSOs	4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 18¹⁹	2020-2024
3.6. <i>Strengthen</i> specific actions to support social systems in Italy for the protection of foreign minors, by	Ministry of Interior -	8, 9, 12, 13	2020-2022

¹⁸ UN Doc. S/RES/2467(2019).

¹⁹ Drafting of Guidelines & protocols for the implementation of this Guidelines; Promotion and organizations of training events with related efficacy indicators.

reinforcing the prevention of and fight against violence against foreign minors, ²⁰ including victims of trafficking.	DPLCI, DPO-PCM, CSOs		
3.7. <i>Promote</i> the involvement of the private sector, also on the basis of the Italian NAP on BHR, to help women of all ages (including women with disabilities, older women and in general women subjected to multiple challenges and difficulties, and orphan girls, displaced women and women asylum-seekers), children and the most vulnerable groups, being conflict and post-conflict survivors, in order to ensure their enjoyment of human rights, safety, physical and mental health, well-being, economic security and equality.	MAECI, CIDU, DPO-PCM	8, 13, 14	2020-2024
3.8. <i>Support and promote</i> actions also of men of all ages, in particular young men, in advancing gender equality and other initiatives, which promote the principles and actions on WPS, also with a view to prevention.	MAECI, AICS, CSOs	6, 8, 10, 11, 14	2020-2024
3.9. <i>Further develop</i> a regular structured dialogue with CSOs, including relevant Platforms, in developing, implementing and monitoring, when possible, measures related to the WPS Agenda.	MAECI, CIDU, AICS, CSOs	10, 11, 13	2020-2024
3.10. <i>Further facilitate</i> cooperation and support local Associations, women's Associations and women HRDs, women peace-builders, and women mediators, especially at a grass-root level, to increase their commitment to gender equality, empowerment, protection of women and children, especially girls, and respect for the human rights of women and children, especially girls, in conflict and post-conflict areas.	MAECI, AICS, CSOs	10, 11, 13, 16, 19	2020-2024

²⁰ By violence, here it is to be meant physical, psychological, sexual and gender-based violence, thus also focusing on specificities that may affect foreign girls.

OBJECTIVE No. 4

Strengthen strategic communication and result-oriented advocacy, by bolstering the Italian participation in relevant fora, conferences and mechanisms (e.g. UN system, Red Cross, OSCE, NATO, EU, OECD, Council of Europe), to further support the implementation of the WPS Agenda while continuing to ensure the enhancement of information and training at all levels, on the various cross-cutting issues of UNSCR1325(2000), in particular for the personnel participating in peace operations, including by increasing synergies with civil society and universities, in order to effectively implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) and the WPS Agenda.

Action	Stakeholder	Indicator <small>²¹</small>	When
4.1. <i>Develop</i> with CSOs, Universities, private sector and media, a strategic communication campaign, including through new social media and relevant conferences and/or meetings, to disseminate information related to all the issues of the WPS Agenda, both among stakeholders and wider audiences, especially young women and men, boys and girls; and likewise, strengthen human rights education with the inclusion of WPS-related topics.	MAECI, CIDU, AICS, Ministry of Defence, DPO-PCM, CSOs, Academia	8, 13, 4, 5	2020-2024
4.2. <i>Develop</i> , also with CSOs, gender-sensitive relevant communication strategies, e.g. information on Gender and the WPS Agenda and the related issues in third countries, while inviting the private sector, by a multi-stakeholder approach, to facilitate this pathway, also in light of the NAP on BHR and the Do No Harm principle.	MAECI, CIDU, AICS, CSOs	10, 11, 13, 16	2020-2024
4.3. <i>Advocate</i> for WPS issues to be included in the mandates of all UN peace missions and in all the work of the UN system, in particular the UN Peace-Building Commission, as well as <i>encourage</i> the creation and work of relevant experts, both women and men, within the framework of peacekeeping operations, while continuing to support the UN Secretary-General's calls for resources earmarked for the peace-building sector to be allocated to gender equality and for an increased presence of women in mediation and peace missions.	MAECI, CSOs	14, 15, 2	2020-2024
4.4. <i>Continue to engage</i> in policy dialogue with multilateral partners, including through the UN system, the EU, NATO, the OSCE, the OECD and the Council of Europe - in order to encourage capacity-building on planning, implementation and reporting on the WPS issues in peace operations, fragile states and conflict situations, and to fully implement both zero-tolerance	MAECI	13, 14	2020-2024

²¹ Depending on the scope of the Action under consideration, the related Indicators may be either quantitative or qualitative and developments will be measured through outputs/deliverables (e.g. activities, reports, publications) or results (the impact of the indicated activities).

<p>policies on sexual exploitation and abuse in peace operations and with regard to the Italian pledge of December 2019 (Red Cross, Geneva) on the protection of boys and girls in conflict against sexual violence and all forms of violence; and, more generally, to promote the implementation of international human rights standards, with specific regard to women's participation and in leading roles, as well as within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development framework.</p>			
<p>4.5. <i>Continue to engage</i> in political dialogue with third countries and partner agencies, to support key UNSCRs, international human rights standards and relevant initiatives, including CEDAW, the Istanbul Convention, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative and the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies.</p>	MAECI	13, 14, 15	2020-2024
<p>4.6. <i>Continue to support and promote</i> dialogue with third countries, including through the involvement of the diplomatic network, on the issue of protecting the safety and rights of girls and boys living in situations of armed conflict, in particular by encouraging the accession to the most important relevant international standards, including the First Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Safe Schools Declaration, also by developing awareness-raising actions, by a multi-stakeholder and integrated approach.</p>	MAECI	13, 15	2020-2024
<p>4.7. <i>Further support</i> advocacy/communication initiatives to strengthen relevant capacity, especially in the EU framework (e.g. Task Force 1325), G-7/G-20, also in light of the NAP on BHR, for effective action at both the operational and policy levels (to promote women's participation and representation, including in leading positions).</p>	MAECI, CIDU, DPO-PCM	13, 14, 15	2020-2024
<p>4.8. <i>Extend</i>, within the framework of WPS-focused training, the systematic inclusion of modules, which deal with the differential impact of armed conflicts on women and children, in particular girls - also in light of the inter-university network, Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict, on children in armed conflict - as well as codes of conduct and cultural awareness on WPS; IHRL and IHL; gender equality; causes consequences, and combating sexual and gender-based violence, in all training courses for civilian, military and police staff of all ranks deployed to conflict zones.</p>	MAECI, AICS, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, Academia, CSOs	4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13	2020-2024
<p>4.9. <i>Strengthen</i>, within the framework of WPS-focused training, professional training and policies on: IHL; IHRL and women's human rights; gender equality; causes,</p>	MAECI, CIDU, AICS, CSOs	4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13	2020-2024

consequences and countering sexual and gender-based violence, especially for staff of all ranks, including those to be deployed abroad - in order to improve their gender-responsive and gender-transformative approach, in particular those ones from the following sectors: diplomacy, development, health, peace and defence (e.g. with training modules for civilian experts and training of trainers, also in light of Act No.145/2016).			
4.10. Finance the training on the WPS Agenda and the related issues, aimed at the staff of local NGOs.	AICS	8, 10, 11, 13	2020-2024
4.11. <i>Support</i> specific training on Gender; Gender Equality; Causes, Consequences and Combating Sexual and Gender Based Violence; Peace and Security (GPS) and related issues, for Italian CSOs, involving academia and other relevant stakeholders, as well as <i>facilitate</i> the further development of GPS modules for young men and women - in light of the experience of the "Civil Peace Corps" and the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.	AICS, CSOs	8, 10, 11, 13	2020-2024
4.12. <i>Promote</i> specific training and the dissemination of the WPS Agenda-related issues among university students and young people, through the provision of dedicated teaching and training courses within the relevant degree and post-graduate courses - also aiming at a more systematic involvement of other university disciplines (e.g. anthropology, sociology and psychology).	Academia, CSOs	8, 13	2020-2024

This Plan on Women, Peace and Security in accordance with UNSCR 1325(2000), 2020 - 2024, will be transmitted to the whole Italian consular-diplomatic network.

ANNEX No. 1 Progress-related indicators²²

1. N# and proportion²³ of women mediators in formal and informal peace processes covered by Italy, with specific mention of those ones in leading roles.
2. N# and proportion of women in International and Regional Organizations with specific mention of those ones in senior and leading positions, such as Heads of diplomatic Missions, staff participating in UN, EU, NATO and OSCE missions and operations, at all levels, including military staff and police forces, at all levels.
3. N# of *gender focal points/advisors*.
4. N# and percentage of men and women at all levels deployed to a) the capital, b) diplomatic staff, c) civilian staff, and d) military staff participating in peace missions and/or development cooperation projects and programmes, trained in WPS and related themes.
5. Proportion of staff trained in conduct and discipline which include references to sexual exploitation and abuse, among the staff personnel a) at central level, b) diplomacy, c) civilian staff, and d) military staff that participate in peace missions and/or projects and programmes of development cooperation.
6. N# and details about the development cooperation mandates, which include gender equality, prevention and combat violence against women, including sexual violence, and the other themes and responsibilities linked to the WPS Agenda.
7. N# and proportion of staff engaged in counter-terrorism, prevention and combat violent extremism, with *gender expertise*.
8. N# and details about *mentoring* and other *capacity-building* activities on themes relating to the WPS Agenda and related issues, aimed at Institutions at the national and international levels.
9. Proportion of financed projects and initiatives relating to the WPS Agenda, which include *relief and recovery programmes*.
10. N# and details about projects/programmes per issue: a) Security (and Justice) sector reform, including the system of repression and combat violence against women, b) DRRR, according to a gender perspective, c) humanitarian aid, including the work with women's organizations and on violence and prevention, as well as the taking into care of women victims, d) *good governance*, e) human rights, f) transitional justice – in which a gender perspective is mainstreamed.
11. Expenditures and proportion of resources of development cooperation programmes in *partner countries* as allocated for the WPS Agenda, gender equality, prevention and combat violence against women, *peace-building* and conflict prevention and N# of CSOs that participate in these programmes.
12. Total of expenditures, N# and details about projects that implement support services with regard to SGBV and other forms of violence against women, including information and services in the field of sexual and reproductive health.
13. Details about good/best practices/stories of communications illustrating *outputs* on Gender and WPS, including objectives, achievements and the activities performed.
14. N# of Italian addresses (per year) per key international agenda with focus on gender equality, prevention and combat violence against women, in particular women in conflict areas (including pre- and post-), as well as on human rights of women and children, especially girls.
15. N# of political dialogues per year among Italian stakeholders and partner countries that raise gender equality and related issues.
16. % of cooperation programmes that consider the outcome of the consultations with national gender equality mechanisms, CSOs, and women's organizations, to inform the specific actions.
17. N# of projects aimed at raising awareness among local and national stakeholders about gender related issues in partner countries supported by Italy.
18. % of cases of SGBV and trafficking in women and children, especially girls, investigated and punished in conflict affected and post-conflict countries within the framework of cooperation and humanitarian projects.
19. N# of women HRD, women peace-builders and women mediators who received support.
20. N# of partner countries that have introduced quota systems to tackle discriminatory practices and that ensure women's representation, in particular in governmental Institutions and leading positions.

²² See Indicators contained in the EU Plan on Women, Peace and Security, 2019 – 2024.

²³ References to "proportion of" in Annex No.1 are to be understood/related to the specific circumstances, conditions and time-frames in which the assessment takes place.

ANNEX No. 2 – List of Administrations,²⁴ Civil Society Organizations and Experts²⁵ that have contributed to developing the present Plan of Action, in accordance with UNSCR 1325(2000)

Maria Grazia Panunzi (<i>President, AIDOS - Associazione Italiana Donne per lo Sviluppo - ONLUS</i>)	
Luisa Del Turco (<i>Independent Expert, Director of Centro Studi Difesa Civile</i>)	
Simona Lanzoni (<i>Vice-President of Pangea Onlus Foundation – REAMA network, Head of Projects and Advocacy</i>)	
Irene Fellin (<i>President, WIIS Italy</i>)	<i>WIIS Italy²⁶</i>
Patrizia Sterpetti (<i>President, WILPF Italia, representing the section</i>)	
Augusta Angelucci (<i>Expert, ex UNDP Senior Gender Advisor</i>)	
Daniela Colombo (<i>Development economist, journalist</i>)	Independent Expert
Prof. M. Caterina Federici, <i>Università degli Studi, Perugia</i>	
Prof. Sergio Marchisio, professor of international law, <i>Università Sapienza, Rome</i>	
Prof. Fausto Pocar, honorary President International Humanitarian Law Institute (<i>Istituto internazionale di diritto umanitario</i>), Sanremo	
CGIL – Silvana Cappuccio, Area of European and International Policies	
CISL - Liliana Ocmin (Sector expert) Responsible for the National Coordination of CISL Women, and National Responsible for Immigration/Migration sector - INAS CISL	
UIL – Sonia Ostrica – National Coordinator Equal Opportunities and Gender Policies – UIL	

²⁴ Please, refer to the Annex to Ministerial Decree No.517/2000 of September 2013, concerning the re-establishment of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights, which lists all the Administrations composing it.

²⁵ Alphabetical order.

²⁶ Women in International Security.





