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INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

**ITALY'S FIFTH
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN
ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY
(2025 – 2029)**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 1325 (2000)**

Foreword by Deputy President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon. Antonio Tajani

The current complex phase in the international situation is characterised by political, economic and social challenges and, protracted instability, which too often lead to open armed conflicts. These are dramatic scenarios in which women, young women, and girls pay the highest price. In this context, it is more crucial than ever to place women at the centre of our approach, to lay the foundations for an inclusive and durable response to pressing issues such as armed conflict, climate change, food insecurity, and migration flows.

Last year, the Italian Presidency of the G7 gave special attention to these issues. At the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Capri, in particular, we discussed gender equality as a cross-cutting priority for promoting the rights of women and girls, and as a way to remove all obstacles to the contribution to conflict prevention, management, and resolution.

The red bench that I wanted at the Ministry, in each of our Embassies and Consulates, to highlight the empty place left in society by a woman victim of femicide, is a symbol of the Government's comprehensive commitment, where domestic and international plans are two expressions of the same strong determination.

The National Action Plan is therefore structured around a core set of fundamental objectives: promoting the equal and effective participation of women in decision-making processes and peace operations; consolidating the presence of women in the Armed Forces and Police; strengthening the protection of women, girls, and children in conflict and post-conflict areas, and reinforcing their role; consolidating communication and training activities on women's rights and the priorities of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, creating synergies with civil society and academia.

What we are presenting today is the result of an intensive teamwork, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights, involving public Administrations, universities, trade unions, UN agencies such as the High Commissioner for Refugees and civil society. Each of these entities has contributed to the Plan with different perspectives, ideas, and sensibilities, enriching it and making it more effective and relevant to reality.

I would like to thank them, together with reaffirming my personal commitment and that of the Government to pursuing these objectives and concretely realising the values reflected in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Rome, 6 August 2025

Introductory Note by the President of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights, Min. Plen. Giovanni Iannuzzi

At a time like the present, when armed violence heavily permeates our daily lives, it becomes even more important to look at the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Beijing Conference on Women and the related Platform for Action (1995) and at the 25th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

It is precisely the repercussions generated by the various crises and by a highly polarised international context that prompt us to recognize and value the essential role that such initiatives play in promoting peace, security, socio-economic development, and the protection of human rights. Only by adopting a perspective based on the three pillars of the UN Charter – peace and security, development and human rights – can the Women, Peace and Security Agenda highlight its extraordinary potential.

Unfortunately, it is clear that the current armed conflicts have disproportionately affected the most vulnerable, with a particular impact on women, young women and girls. In general, their conditions are compromised in all areas – from economy to security – exposing them to situations of abuse and violence.

CIDU will be committed to following-up on this Plan, promoting an approach that actively involves multiple stakeholders, through increasingly coordinated sectoral initiatives, engaging civil society organisations as key partners for its broad and effective implementation. On the other hand, the spirit of collaboration in the drafting of the Fifth National Plan – the result of a collective commitment that also has a relevant international standing – is a solid starting point for its full valorisation in all appropriate fora, both nationally and globally.

Rome, 6 August 2025.

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Acronyms

A/HRC/RES	UN Human Rights Council Resolution
A/RES	UN General Assembly Resolution
AICS	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
ANCI	National Association of Italian Municipalities
BHR	Business and Human Rights
CASD	Centre for Advanced Studies for Defence
CEDAW	UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CIDU	Comitato Interministeriale per i Diritti Umani (Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights)
CIMIC	Civil-Military Cooperation
CoE	Council of Europe
CoESPU	Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CREA	Council for Agricultural Research and Analysis of the Agricultural Economy
CSDP	Common Defence and Security Policy
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DDRR	Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation
DGAP	Direzione Generale per gli Affari Politici e di Sicurezza (Directorate-General for Political and Security Affairs, MAECI)
DGCS	Direzione Generale per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (Directorate-General for Development Cooperation, MAECI)
DPO-PCM	Dipartimento per le Pari Opportunità - Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri (Department for Equal Opportunities - Presidency of the Council of Ministers)
EU	European Union
GAP III	Gender Action Plan III
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HRC	Human Rights Council
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IHRL	International Human Rights Law
IO	International Organisation
ISTAT	Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (Italian National Institute of Statistics)
MAECI	Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation)
MASE	Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica (Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security)
MIM	Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Italian Ministry of Education and Merit)
MUR	Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca (Italian Ministry of University and Research)
MWMN	Mediterranean Women Mediators Network
NAP	National Action Plan
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OWEG-1325	Open Ended Working Group on UNSCR 1325
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PCM	Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri (Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TFGBV	Technical-facilitated GBV
THB	Trafficking in Human Beings
UN	United Nations
UNAR	Ufficio Nazionale Antidiscriminazioni Razziali (Italian National Office against Racial Discrimination)
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WPHF	Women's Peace Humanitarian Fund
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

GENERAL PART

Background

Twenty-five years ago, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 on 'Women, Peace and Security': the first Resolution to explicitly consider the impact of wars and conflicts on women and the contribution of women to conflict resolution and durable peace. In 2003, the UN Secretary-General introduced the "Zero Tolerance Policy", to be applied to military personnel, rebels and *a fortiori* UN personnel, both military and civilian, in the event of sexual abuse of civilians (women and children) in conflict areas.

Since 2004, UN Member States have been regularly invited to strengthen their commitment by preparing specific National Action Plans¹ for the implementation of UNSCR 1325(2000).

Since 2000 the United Nations Security Council has adopted nine further Resolutions (UNSCR) on Women, Peace and Security:² UNSCR 1820(2008), UNSCR 1888(2009), UNSCR 1889(2009), UNSCR 1960(2010), UNSCR 2106(2013), UNSCR 2122(2013), UNSCR 2242(2015), UNSCR 2467(2019), UNSCR 2493(2019).

In this context, other Security Council resolutions should also be considered, such as UNSCR 1983(2011), which focuses on the impact of HIV-AIDS (human immunodeficiency virus; acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) on women in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as on the need for specific social, medical and psychological assistance measures (with a focus on reproductive health and family planning); UNSCR 1674(2006) on the protection of civilians and subsequent resolutions³; UNSCR 2250(2015) and subsequent resolutions⁴, by which the Security Council urges UN Member States to increase the representation of young people at all levels of decision-making; UNSCR 2282(2016) on post-conflict peacebuilding; UNSCR 2447(2018) and UNSCR 2594(2021) on UN peacekeeping operations; UNSCR 2532(2020) on the impact of coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19).

Italy acknowledges the importance of reading the Agenda 1325 resolutions, in connection with the Reports of the United Nations Secretary-General (the latest of which is contained in UN Doc. S/2024/671), which, over the years, have underlined the need to focus

¹ We recall the Presidential Declaration of 28 October 2004 by the President of the United Nations Security Council, which called on the Member States to advance the implementation of Resolution 1325, "including through the development of National Action Plans". 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 in implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325(2000). With regard to the 'Zero Tolerance policy', crimes are punishable both by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and by national courts – so no form of impunity can be allowed. Similarly, 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, provides for assistance to victims with regard to health care, legal services and psychological support.

² UNSCR 1325 focuses on the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women, as well as on the involvement of women in conflict resolution and prevention, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, and post-conflict reconstruction. UNSCR 1820(2008) considers sexual violence as a tactic of war and poses 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 peacebuilding. 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 in all stages of peace processes, as well as the development of global sector indicators by the UN Secretary-General. UNSCR 1960(2010) provides for a system of accountability for sexual violence in conflict. UNSCR 2106(2013) focuses *inter alia* on the need to strengthen the fight against impunity for crimes of sexual violence in conflict. UNSCR 2122(2013) further operationalises previous Resolutions, also considering gender equality and women's empowerment as key elements of international peace and security, as well as strengthening the commitment to involve women in peace dialogues, and the need to ensure their access – in the context of humanitarian aid – to reproductive and sexual health services (SRHR). UNSCR 2242(2015) encourages the Action Plan to Prevent Violent Extremism – close to adoption – to mainstream 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 for women's organisations, whose work is of the utmost importance in this area (see the UN Plan of Action Against Violent Extremism, UN Doc A/70/674). UNSCR 2467(2019) reaffirms *inter alia* support and protection for women's organisations and reiterates the pivotal role of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations in the context of the WPS Agenda. UNSCR 2493(2019) calls for the full implementation of all previous resolutions on WPS, as well as urging States to ensure support for the full, timely and meaningful participation of women in all peace processes, including mechanisms for implementing and monitoring peace agreements.

³ The latest of which is UNSCR 2573(2021).

⁴ Together with the following two Resolutions: UNSCR 2419(2018) and UNSCR 2535(2020).

inter alia on:

- Multiple discrimination;
- All forms of human rights violations affecting women in armed conflict – including online violence;
- Women's economic security;
- The primary causes of violence that need to be addressed through appropriate national capacities;
- The removal of structural barriers to participation;
- Combating misogynistic extremism;
- The implications of climate change;⁵
- The importance of using specific tools such as the UN Universal Periodic Review;
- A stronger focus on statistical data – also in light of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Similarly, the relevance of the Annual Reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on sexual violence in conflict and sexual exploitation and abuse is confirmed, along with the following UN Documents:

- The UN Strategic Results Framework on women, peace and security, 2011-2020;
- The UN Women Sector Guidelines;
- The 2015 Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, prepared by R. Coomaraswamy (the results of which were reported in UN Doc. S/2015/716);
- The Secretary-General's "Call to Action for Human Rights", presented to the Human Rights Council in February 2020;
- The Human Rights Council Resolution (A/HRC/RES/45/28 of 12 October 2020 on the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) ⁶;
- The Secretary-General's Policy Brief, entitled A New Agenda for Peace presented in July 2023;
- The Pact for the Future (UN Doc. A/RES/79/1), adopted by consensus in September 2024;
- The Secretary-General's "Common Pledge for Women's Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes", launched in October 2024.

Within the framework of this Plan, the indications emerging from the most recent international conferences and events⁷ are also relevant. It is to be recalled in this regard:

- The Fourth Council of Europe Summit, held in Reykjavík, on 16-17 May 2023;⁸
- The NATO Summit of July 2024, at which the Revised NATO Policy on Women, Peace and Security 2024 was adopted.⁹
- The G7 Summit of the Heads of State and Government at Borgo Egnazia in June 2024 and the G7 Ministerial Meetings in Capri (April 2024) and Matera (October

⁵ See UNSCR 2242(2015), which sets out priorities in an evolving global context of peace and security: "(...) the changing global context of peace and security, in particular relating to [...] the impacts of climate change".

⁶ See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/women/womens-human-rights-and-gender-related-concerns-situations-conflict-and-instability>

⁷ This document, of course, is based on and refers to all the texts reported in the previous editions of the Plan under reference, without mentioning them all (see <https://cidu.esteri.it>).

⁸ In which Member States reaffirmed their commitment: "to securing and strengthening democracy and good governance at all levels throughout Europe". On that occasion, the 10 Reykjavík Principles for Democracy were also adopted, reaffirming, *inter alia*, the importance of democratic participation at the national, regional and local levels.

⁹ Paragraph 6 shows, for example, 'NATO's Human Security and WPS Agendas reflect a people-centred and human rights-based approach' (https://www.nato.int/cps/fr/natohq/official_texts_227578.htm?selectedLocale=en).

2024), under the Italian Presidency of the G7, for the year 2024.¹⁰

Remaining faithful to its core principles of rule of law, non-discrimination, respect for human rights, democracy and good governance, Italy confirms its firmest commitment to the effective implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, also by promoting a systemic approach that values Italian expertise and experience in this area.

At the multilateral level, the Italian Government has always supported the implementation of UNSCR 1325 *inter alia* by promoting awareness-raising actions and dissemination of relevant knowledge.

Italy also participates in various dedicated initiatives within the United Nations, such as the week dedicated, on the margins of the Open Debate of the Security Council, as well as within the framework of the General Assembly, and during the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the United Nations, such as the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Within the EU, Italy aims to strengthen EU action, in line with relevant documents, including: the Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security (Doc.2008 - 156711/08 Rev 1); Indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to the EU implementation of the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security (Doc. 2010 - 11948/10) – revised in September 2016 (10805/16); EU 2018 Council’s Conclusion on Women, Peace and Security and the EU strategic approach to Women, Peace and Security; EU 2022 Council’s Conclusions on Women, Peace and Security;¹¹ EU Strategy for Gender Equality 2020-2025, EU Gender Action Plan GAP III, 2021-2025; EU 2023 EU Civilian CSDP Compact; 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, for women human rights defenders and, more generally, to ensure women’s empowerment,¹² also in the light of the relevant Guidelines on “Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (2020-2024)”. During its G7 Presidency in 2024, Italy joined the WPS and Humanitarian Action Compact.

The commitment to recognise Violence against Women as a human rights issue, to challenge *de jure* and *de facto* discrimination against women, and to end impunity for the widespread use of sexual violence in armed conflict, was enhanced after 2009, when Italy launched the first G-8 initiative on violence against women. Since then, support against trafficking, genital mutilation, early and/or forced marriage and gender-based violence,

¹⁰ <https://www.g7italy.it/wp-content/uploads/Apulia-G7-Leaders-Communique.pdf>;
<https://www.g7italy.it/wp-content/uploads/G7-Capri-Communique-ADDRESSING-GLOBAL-CHALLENGES.pdf>;
<https://www.g7italy.it/wp-content/uploads/Matera-Ministerial-Statement.pdf>.

¹¹ Paragraph 7 reads as follows: “The Council recognised its call for strengthening the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women and girls in conflict prevention and resolution throughout the conflict cycle, including in formal and informal mediation, crisis management, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, peace negotiations, demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration, security sector reform and other recovery and reconstruction processes. The Council’s commitments to support women’s and youth’s equal, full, effective and meaningful participation, in all their diversity, including in all spheres of public and political life, as per the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024. A substantial increase in women’s leadership and participation in all aspects of peace and security is necessary not only for the sake of human rights and gender equality, inclusive governance and social cohesion, but also for the sustainable resolution of conflicts and crises”. Paragraph 13 reads as follows: “The Council reflects the need to follow-up on commitments made in relation to the integration of WPS into the Strategic Compass and the 2020 Concept on EU Peace Mediation and EU Mediation Guidelines, as well as efforts aimed at promoting and ensuring a gender perspective and WPS commitments in the development of the EU Stabilisation Concept and the Civilian CSDP Compact 2.0. The Council reflects its commitment to increase the number of women in all functions, including leadership positions. Further, the Council recognises the need to integrate WPS fully into both pillars of the European Peace Facility. EU external action should actively contribute to the realization of the human rights of women and girls including the prevention of conflict related sexual and gender-based violence”.

¹² In this Plan, for women, mention has to be made of the various relevant contexts, paying specific attention, for example, to women mediators, women negotiators, women in top positions, women human rights defenders, women at a local level, women in rural areas (etc.) – while also taking into account various factors, such as age, ethnicity (etc.).

including online violence, has been strengthened, both politically and financially.

Italy's efforts to implement the pillars of UNSCR 1325(2000) and the other resolutions on Women, Peace and Security are linked to the general promotion and protection of equality and human rights of women, young women and girls, within the framework of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which marks its 30th anniversary in 2025. They also stem from Italy's obligations under the relevant international conventions framework, including the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW (and the related General Recommendations, in particular the most recent General Recommendation No. 40 of 2024, as well as General Recommendation No. 30 of 2013¹³), the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 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 the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Similarly, in this context, the solemn pledge submitted by Italy at the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross (October 2024) on the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of conflict and humanitarian disasters is noteworthy.

Finally, at national level, the following are relevant: the National Gender Equality Strategy, 2021-2026; the National Strategic Plan on Male Violence against Women; the National Action Plan against Trafficking and Serious Exploitation of Human Beings 2022-2025; and the Second National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (BHR).

Statement of Commitments

This Fifth National Action Plan (hereinafter referred to as the NAP) on Women, Peace and Security, 2025-2029, strengthens support for the course of actions outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) and subsequent Resolutions.

More specifically, the NAP ensures that the gender perspective is included in all policy areas that support the concept of peace and security and that this perspective is adopted in all practical measures aimed at promoting and protecting peace and security: from conflict prevention and management to negotiation and mediation, to post-conflict reconstruction.

The Plan expands the efforts undertaken within the Security Council, by addressing the fundamental Pillars of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (participation, protection, prevention, relief and recovery), as well as by including actions relating to a wide range of situations – which do not necessarily fall within the mandate of the aforementioned Body – to be considered with both a cross-cutting and gender mainstreaming approach, also taking into account the Triple Nexus between peace and security, humanitarian aid and sustainable development.

The Italian Government recognises the scope of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the transformative value of the role of women¹⁴.

In adopting the NAP, which is characterised, as the previous editions, by its evolving nature as a living document¹⁵, Italy aims to:

¹³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-recommendation-no-40-equal-and-inclusive>; <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/GComments/CEDAW.C.CG.30.pdf>

¹⁴ Of course, this should also include girls from the 15-24 age group (<https://www.un.org/en/global/issues/youth#:~:text=There%20is%20no%20universally%20agreed,of%2015%20and%2024%20years.>).

¹⁵ In the light of the commitments and projects undertaken by Italy, this Plan, while showing a "strategic content", constitutes a work in

- (i) promote and enhance the actions undertaken by all the Authorities involved in the implementation of this Plan;
- (ii) expand the scope of action of all relevant stakeholders– as set out in Security Council Resolution 2242(2015), and reaffirmed in subsequent relevant Resolutions;
- (iii) enhance the systematisation of actions based on an integrated and cross-cutting approach.

The ultimate objectives of the actions undertaken within the framework of Italy's NAP are to:

- Reduce the impact of conflict on women and girls by promoting effective, meaningful, full and safe women's participation, including in leadership roles, in conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution processes - as well as in all decision-making processes, at all levels;
- Strengthen existing structures, raise awareness and educate about the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and related issues.

Methodology

The Plan was developed based on the following principles: dialogue, transparency, an integrated, cross-cutting and multi-agency approach (multi-stakeholder). Within this framework, an online public consultation was held (June-July 2024), together with a specific national seminar held in July 2024 at Sapienza University of Rome, jointly with an updating exercise developed within the national Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Women, Peace and Security at the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights (CIDU).

The NAP is organised around four Objectives (Thematic Areas), each of which is characterised by Actions, Stakeholders, and Indicators,¹⁶ aimed at reflecting the content of Security Council Resolutions and relevant international and regional standards.

Specifically, the indicators included in this Plan are inspired by: the indicators contained in the United Nations Secretary-General Report on Women, Peace and Security (S/2010/173)¹⁷; 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.

The NAP, therefore, aims to strengthen the advancement of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and related issues, at the international, national and local levels. Italy undertakes to implement it through a multi-stakeholder approach, involving close collaboration between the above-mentioned Working Group, civil society and other relevant stakeholders. It will be through this multi-agency mechanism that the implementation of the NAP will be supervised, also thanks to periodic progress reports to be prepared with relevant Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), in order to ensure its operational effectiveness and a more synergistic and holistic approach.

In this perspective, independent monitoring will also be envisaged for the first time.

progress and will be the subject of further possible additions over the next four years.

¹⁶ Depending on the scope of the Action under review, the related Indicators may be quantitative and/or qualitative and developments will be measured through final outputs/results (e.g., activities, reports, publications) or results (the impact of the activities indicated).

¹⁷ As developed later in the Strategic Framework 2011 – 2020, the relevant indicators aim to be: 'Smart', i.e. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely Defined.

The Plan will have a five-year duration and will be constantly monitored, through periodic meetings. The status of implementation of the NAP will be regularly presented to the political authorities and at the parliamentary level.

Accordingly, the NAP will be transmitted to the diplomatic-consular network.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Italy will publish an annual progress report, which will be prepared by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights (CIDU), in consultation with civil society and other relevant stakeholders. The Working Group-1325 (the so-called OEWG-1325) will meet at least once every four months and provide information to CIDU members.

The actions and indicators included in the NAP will be used to assess developments and progress.

The OEWG-1325 will review the current Objectives, Actions and related Indicators, on an annual basis, in the light of lessons learned, emerging issues and policy agendas related to Women, Peace and Security, as well as in response to challenges identified during the monitoring process.

Within the framework of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, an independent monitoring exercise will be envisaged, during the validity of this Plan.

OPERATIONAL PART

Implementation framework

OBJECTIVE No. 1

Strengthen – on a continuous and durable basis - the role of women in peace processes and in all decision-making processes, ensuring their effective, equal, meaningful and safe participation, including by increasing synergies with civil society, in order to effectively implement Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) and the WPS Agenda.

Actions¹⁸	Stakeholders
1.1. <i>Promote</i> the full, fair, safe and meaningful participation of women and girls in peace processes, mediation and all decision-making processes related to peace and security, as well as to international policy, disarmament processes, climate change, food security, digital security, artificial intelligence and development –also in light of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda (UNSCR 2250 et seq.).	MAECI, AICS, CSOs¹⁹
1.2. <i>Continue to support</i> the growing presence of women in reconstruction processes - also with regard to the drafting of new Constitutions - and in all sectors of society, in particular in the sectors of transitional justice, the environment and climate, and the economy and finance.	MAECI, CSOs
1.3. <i>Enhance</i> women's participation and <i>promote</i> their leadership role by strengthening women's training in order to consolidate, on a continuous and durable basis, the capacities of women in leadership roles and/or women's civil society organisations, in actions concerning: prevention, facilitation and mediation, at all levels, particularly in national peace and reconstruction processes in pre-, during and post-conflict countries, including discussions on disarmament; as well as with regard to the representation and participation of women in high-level decision-making roles, including in areas such as DDRR ²⁰ , electoral processes, justice, climate, energy and finance.	MAECI, AICS, CSOs
1.4. <i>Further strengthen</i> the engagement and dialogue with relevant CSOs and women's associations, including refugee and diaspora women, both at the national level - including through regular meetings with MAECI experts - and international level, by developing regular structured dialogue with CSOs, including relevant Platforms, also with regard to the elaboration, implementation and monitoring, where possible, of WPS-related measures.	MAECI, AICS, CSOs
1.5. <i>Further strengthen</i> the Mediterranean Network of Women Mediators (MWMN) and the presence of women in the Italian Network for International Mediation (RIMI), together with other relevant Italian initiatives.	MAECI, CSOs
1.6. <i>Further facilitate</i> cooperation and support to local associations, women's associations and women Human Rights Defenders, especially at a local level, to express and implement their capacities in: combating gender-based violence, including online violence, and sexual violence; the economy - including within the framework of NAPs on BHR, where they exist; environmental protection; training; decision-making processes, including at a local level and, in general, within national structures and institutions; as well as in conflict prevention and peace-building sectors.	MAECI, CSOs

¹⁸ Depending on the scope of the Action under review, 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 activities indicated).

¹⁹ civil society organizations.

²⁰ Disarmament, Demobilisation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration.

1.7. <i>Support</i> the meaningful and safe participation of women and girls in peacebuilding, security and stability processes, through the implementation of ad hoc activities within development cooperation and humanitarian aid programmes, also in light of the Triple Nexus between humanitarian aid, development and peace.	MAECI, AICS, CSOs
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OBJECTIVE No. 2

Strengthen the promotion of the gender perspective in peace operations and enhance the presence of women, particularly in the Armed Forces and Police Forces, consolidating their role in decision-making processes relating to peace missions and peace conferences.

Actions²¹	Stakeholders
2.1. <i>Strengthen</i> the gender-sensitive and gender-responsive approaches of the contents of UNSCR 1325(2000) and subsequent Resolutions in development cooperation and the Armed Forces – including through participation in the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives and the EU Task Force on 1325, as well as the active participation in the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan, 2021-2025 (GAP III), also with regard to the post-conflict phase and capacity-building, education and training initiatives, including those for the Security Forces.	MAECI, AICS, Ministry of Defence
2.2. <i>Strengthen</i> policies approaches and planning, in the light of the differential experience of women and girls, in peace operations, in fragile States ²² and in conflict/post-conflict areas, as well as in conflict prevention/management strategies, with focus on priority countries and, <i>inter alia</i> , on: reinforcing women's empowerment and capacity-building for national Institutions, also in order to facilitate the meaningful and safe participation of women, as well as civil society, in reconstruction processes, particularly at the local level, in line with Law No. 125/2014; Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR); combating violence – also sexual and gender-based violence, including online violence – against women and girls.	MAECI, AICS, CSOs
2.3. <i>Continue to organise</i> courses on the subject and for the training of Gender Advisors and Gender Focal Points, with the support of qualified national and international experts. <i>Train</i> personnel at foreign Training Institutes designated by the UN, NATO and the EU (e.g., <i>Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations, European Security and Defence College</i>). <i>Strengthen</i> the teaching modules included in the courses carried out by the CIMIC Regiment (military-civil cooperation) and the PSYOPS Regiment (operational communication), as well as those implemented at Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) for UN peacekeepers from third countries.	Ministry of Defence
2.4. <i>Encourage</i> the meaningful participation of women in the entire process of deployment in peace operations - including through the analysis of barriers to their full participation - and increase the number of Gender Advisers in peacekeeping missions and in international organisations, particularly, within NATO; and more generally, of women, including in EU and OSCE ²³ civilian missions.	MAECI, Ministry of Defence
2.5. <i>Further strengthen</i> support to the Defence organisational structure, as the national and international focal point for gender policies implemented in the military organisation that: Develops the issue of adopting a gender perspective, as outlined in UN/NATO/EU legislation; Organises and manages relevant courses at the inter-forces level, and supports the organisation and management of similar courses within the various Armed Forces; Monitors internal and external communication initiatives on gender perspective, UNSCR 1325(2000) and the integration of male and female military personnel in the Armed Forces; Conducts relevant statistical studies.	Ministry of Defence

²¹ Depending on the scope of the Action under review, 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 activities indicated).

²² In the light of, *inter alia*, the OECD States of Fragility 2025 report.

²³ Also taking into account the OSCE-wide Roadmap for the implementation of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) commitments, adopted in May 2025.

2.6. <i>Further strengthen</i> the participation and representation of women in the Armed Forces and Police Forces, including at senior level, through: - communication actions targeting women; - interventions for the creation of nurseries and playrooms for the children of military personnel; - internal communication activities to eradicate stereotypes (in synergy with the actions, under the responsibility of the Minister of Defence, as already provided for in the National Strategic Plan on Male Violence against Women implementing the Istanbul Convention).	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence
2.7. <i>Increase</i> the activities of the Inter-Force Council on Gender Perspective, an advisory body of the Chief of Defence, on: - Implementation of WPS Resolutions; - Equal opportunities; - Prohibition of discrimination; - Integration of female and male military personnel in the Armed Forces; - Prevention and contrast of all forms of violent behaviour (psychological or physical) related to the gender of the victim.	Ministry of Defence
2.8. <i>Enhance</i> collaboration between the MAECI 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 relevant joint MAECI-Ministry of Defence Working Group.	Ministry of Defence, MAECI

OBJECTIVE No. 3

Strengthen the promotion of gender equality, empowerment and protection of women and girls, and respect for human rights of women and girls, in conflict and post-conflict areas, by enhancing synergies with civil society to implement Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) and the WPS Agenda.

Actions²⁴	Stakeholders
3.1. <i>Strengthen</i> efforts to prevent and protect against all forms of discrimination ²⁵ and to respond to violence against women, girls, men of all ages and children in emergency, conflict and post-conflict situations – while also enhancing the professionalism of Police and Security Forces, as well as judicial institutions, through specific human rights training on, <i>inter alia</i> , the prohibition of hate speech, countering violent extremism and terrorism, and, more broadly, issues relating to non-discrimination, violence and gender-based violence, including online – also in order to prosecute perpetrators more effectively and monitor cases of hate crimes, including online, particularly those affecting women refugees and asylum seekers.	MAECI, AICS, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, UNAR-DPO, DPO-PCM
3.2. <i>Contribute to promoting</i> gender equality, empowerment and protection of women and girls, besides preventing and eliminating gender-based violence, including online violence, and sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, through: 1) preventing and combating harassment, abuse and sexual exploitation, including in international aid; 2) participating in and supporting for international development initiatives to combat gender-based violence, including sexual and online violence, against women and girls, including specific awareness-raising action towards community leaders, and national and local Authorities; 3) providing immediate assistance and humanitarian aid; 4) the rehabilitation and empowerment of women and girls, who are survivors living in conflict and post-conflict situations, also in light of the Ministry of Health's Guidelines on 'Health and rehabilitation of refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection being victims of torture, rape or any other serious form of violence', as well as the Italian Cooperation Guidelines on 'Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls' ²⁶ .	MAECI, AICS, Ministry of Health, CSOs
3.3. <i>Strengthen</i> the action of AICS Foreign Offices on gender equality and the 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 girls, providing specific training also for officials in senior positions besides establishing gender units in priority countries, creating a monitoring and data collection system, including indicators focusing in particular on the needs of vulnerable groups.	AICS
3.4. <i>Support</i> international diplomatic and political processes aimed at strengthening enforcement against sexual violence and other forms of violence in conflict situations and ensuring accountability for violations of IHRL and IHL, including those falling under international crimes such as war crimes and crimes against humanity, of which women and girls are victims.	MAECI, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice, CSOs
3.5. <i>Strengthen</i> specific actions to support national social protection systems by reinforcing prevention and combating violence against foreign women and children (including victims of trafficking), encouraging the involvement of the private sector - also based upon the Italian NAP on BHR - to help women, children and the most vulnerable groups, who have survived conflict and post-conflict situations, in order to ensure their human rights, safety, physical and mental health, and well-being.	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, DPO-PCM, Ministry of Health, CIDU

²⁴ Depending on the scope of the Action under review, 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 activities indicated).

²⁵ Including multiple forms of discrimination.

²⁶ Identification of indicators defining good practices (points 1 and 4); Number and type 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 type of immediate assistance provided (point 3); Drafting of protocols for the application of the guidelines (point 4).

3.6. <i>Facilitate</i> cooperation and support particularly local associations, women's associations and women Human Rights Defenders and mediators, especially at the local level, so that they can expand their engagement with regard to gender equality, empowerment, protection and respect for the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict areas ²⁷ .	MAECI, AICS, CSOs
3.7. <i>Strengthen</i> the promotion of actions, including by men of all ages, particularly boys, in advancing gender equality and other initiatives that promote WPS principles and actions - including with a view to preventing gender-based violence, including online violence ²⁸ .	MAECI, AICS, CSOs

²⁷ Drafting of guidelines & protocols for the application of guidelines; Promotion and organization of training events with indicators of their effectiveness.

²⁸ Violence is to be understood as physical, psychological, sexual and *online* violence, thus also taking into account specificities that may affect foreign minors.

OBJECTIVE No. 4

Consolidate the promotion of strategic communication and awareness-raising actions, by strengthening Italian participation in conferences and sectoral mechanisms (e.g. United Nations system, Red Cross, OSCE, NATO, EU, OECD, Council of Europe), to further support the implementation of the WPS Agenda, while continuing to ensure the consolidation of information and training at all levels, on the various cross-cutting aspects of the WPS Agenda, in particular for staff participating in peace operations, including by increasing synergies with civil society, universities and research.

Actions ²⁹	Stakeholders
4.1. <i>Promote</i> the development, including with CSOs, the private sector and Universities in particular, of strategic communication campaigns, including through new social media and relevant conferences and/or meetings, also at a local level, to disseminate the WPS Agenda themes, both to stakeholders and wider audiences.	MAECI, CIDU, AICS, Ministry of Defence, DPO-PCM, MUR, MIM, CREA, MASE, State-Regions Conference, ANCI, CSOs, Academia
4.2. <i>Strengthen</i> education on Women, Peace and Security, including gender equality and women's human rights, also through the provision of dedicated teaching and training pathways within the relevant undergraduate and post-graduate degree programmes.	CIDU, DPO-PCM, MUR, MIM, CSOs, Academia
4.3. <i>Develop</i> , also with CSOs, communication strategies with a gender-sensitive approach taking into account e.g. relevant issues in priority third countries, while inviting the private sector, with a multi-agency approach, to support this pathway - also in the light of the NAP on BHR, the Triple Nexus between humanitarian aid, development and peace, and the Do No Harm principle.	MAECI, CIDU, AICS, CSOs
4.4. <i>Strengthen</i> the promotion of WPS issues, so that they are 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, besides strengthening support for the Secretary-General's requests for resources earmarked for the peacebuilding, to be allocated to gender equality and for an increased presence of women in mediation and peace missions.	MAECI, AICS, CSOs
4.5. <i>Strengthen</i> dialogue with multilateral partners, including through the United Nations, Red Cross, the EU, NATO, OSCE ³⁰ , OECD and the Council of Europe – to promote enhancement of planning capacities, implementation and reporting on WPS issues in peace operations, fragile States and conflict situations.	MAECI

²⁹ Depending on the scope of the Action under review, the relevant 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 activities indicated).

³⁰ Also taking into account the *OSCE-wide Roadmap for the implementation of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) commitments*, adopted in May 2025.

4.6. <i>Strengthen</i> , within the context of WPS-focused training, the professional training and training policies, including through the systematic inclusion of modules addressing the differential impact of armed conflict on women and girls - also in the 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, women's participation, multiple discrimination, causes, consequences and combating sexual and gender-based violence, including online violence, for all training courses for civilian, military and police personnel, of all ranks deployed in conflict zones, as well as for MAECI and other public administrations personnel, including at the local level – in order to improve their gender-responsive approach and to increase accountability and accelerate the implementation of gender equality commitments (e.g., with training modules for civil experts and training for trainers – also in the light of Law No. 145/2016).	MAECI, AICS, CIDU, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, DPO-PCM, MUR, MIM, MASE, CREA, State-Regions Conference, Academia CSOs
4.7. <i>Continue to fund</i> projects on the WPS Agenda and related issues for local NGOs staff.	AICS
4.8. <i>Strengthen</i> support for specific training for Italian CSOs, involving academia and other relevant stakeholders.	AICS, CIDU, DPO-PCM, CSOs, Academia

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Annex No.1 – Indicators of progress on women’s participation

1. Number and proportion³¹ of women mediators and negotiators, with specific mention of those in senior positions, participating in peace processes, mediation and decision-making processes related to peace and security, formal and informal, followed by Italy,.
2. Number and proportion of women in international and regional organisations, with specific mention of those in senior and high-ranking positions, such as heads of diplomatic missions, personnel participating in UN, EU, NATO and OSCE missions and operations at all levels, including military, and law enforcement agencies, at all levels.
3. Number of gender focal points/advisors.
4. Number and percentage of men and women at all levels employed (a) in the capital (b) diplomatic service, (c) as civilian and (d) as military personnel participating in peace missions and/or development cooperation projects and programmes, trained on WPS and related issues.
5. Proportion of personnel trained in conduct and discipline, including references to sexual exploitation and abuse, among employees (a) at central level, (b) diplomatic service, (c) civilian personnel and (d) military personnel participating in peace missions and/or development cooperation projects and programmes.
6. Number and details of development cooperation mandates, including gender equality, prevention and combating violence against women, including sexual violence, online violence against women and other issues and responsibilities related to the WPS Agenda.
7. Number and details of projects/programmes by topic: a) Security Sector (and Justice) Reform, including the system repressing and combating violence against women; b) DDDR, from a gender perspective, c) humanitarian aid, including work with women's organisations and on issues of violence prevention and assistance to women victims, d) good governance, e) human rights, f) transitional justice.
8. Expenditure and ratio of development cooperation programmes resources allocated to the WPS Agenda, gender equality, preventing and combating violence against women, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, and number of CSOs participating in these programmes.
9. Details of good/excellent practices, illustrating the results in the field of gender equality, including objectives and activities carried out in the light of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (monitored by ISTAT, on a six-monthly basis).
10. Number of women's associations, participating in government processes aimed at peace-building and disarmament programs.
11. Number of women trained in disarmament.
12. Percentage of women participating in disarmament debates; and examples of processes related to humanitarian disarmament and arms control, including a gender perspective.

³¹ References to "proportion of" in the body of Annex No. 1 are to be understood/linked to the specific circumstances, conditions, and timeframes in which the assessment takes place.