

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
*Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human Rights*  
*General Directorate for Political and Security Affairs*

**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN OF ITALY**  
***“Women, Peace and Security – WPS”***  
**2014 - 2016**

*27 February 2014*

**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN OF ITALY**  
**“Women, Peace and Security – WPS”**  
**2014 - 2016**

**Preface**

Since its drafting, Italy has supported the adoption of UNSCR1325<sup>1</sup>. Today it is among the more than forty Member States of the United Nations that has adopted a National Action Plan to implement UNSC resolution 1325, focused on “Women, Peace and Security” (WPS).

Internationally, Italy has been, and remains, one of the first countries to support new initiatives, completed or underway, in this field.

In recent years, the Italian government has gained momentum in taking strong action, particularly, to combat violence against women (e.g. the campaign against Female Genital Mutilation). Italy is among the first countries to have promptly ratified the Istanbul Convention (which will enter into force on August 1, 2014). Our country supports the U.S. initiative in the *New Equal Partnership*; the development of specific projects in relation to the implementation of Resolution 1325 by the Italian Cooperation in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Somalia, and the Palestinian Autonomous Territories. The first Center for women victims of violence was set up in Bethlehem, and, in terms of cooperation with the local authorities and women's associations, it may be considered a best practice. Italy has been the first UN Member State (UNMS) to push for the introduction of the issue of "Women, Peace, and Security" into the framework of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

In the past year, Italy has contributed to the adoption by consensus of the *Agreed Conclusions* of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW57), during which (March 2013) Member States committed to implementing the recommendations therein to eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against women, in all contexts.

Similarly, under the UK Presidency of the G8, Italy promptly supported in April 2013 the initiative on the “Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones”, by signing the declaration stating that "rape and serious forms of sexual violence in the context of war are serious violations of the Geneva Conventions."

Italy was one of the first countries to support the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, as ratified by Act No. 77 dated 26 June 2013. In this context, the Italian government committed to raise awareness of the ratification among all EU partners. Furthermore, at the international level, and in view of the Presidency of the Council of the EU (July-December 2014), the Italian government is currently engaged in the fight against forced and/or early marriages, which should be taken into account also in the context of armed conflicts; this issue will be eventually considered, at the EU level, with possible initiatives in the field of *transitional justice*<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> See: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325\(2000\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325(2000)).

<sup>2</sup> See: [http://www.eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article\\_14143\\_en.htm](http://www.eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_14143_en.htm)

At the national level, Italy's efforts are directed, inter alia, toward preparing a new special Plan of Action on Violence against Women, by which to enforce EU standards on the fight against trafficking. This confirms a growing awareness of the importance of preventing all forms of violence against women, with the understanding that *gender equality* and *women's empowerment* are compelling issues, both internationally and nationally, in the prevention of all forms of violence: from domestic family violence to the more extreme mass atrocities, as is the case in armed conflicts.<sup>3</sup>

Despite our efforts, however, the challenges we are facing are many, especially because of the current economic crisis. In the coming years, we will need **to bolster initiatives at the international and national levels, and ensure their effective, full measurability as they will be increasingly inter-linked**. We will need to develop an integrated approach to enhance understanding of the complexities of situations in a given conflict as well as of the impact, including the economic, affecting all levels and all components of society: men, women and children. This vision is already part of the foundation of the Guidelines of the Italian Cooperation, 2011-2013.

**Specific measures for adequate training on issues related to conflict situations have been undertaken by the government.** A few examples are: training courses organized by the Armed Forces and the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the field of gender mainstreaming and gender perspective applied to operational contexts; sector-specific courses organized by the *Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units* (CoESPU) of Vicenza;<sup>4</sup> and training courses and toolkits in the field of human rights organized and prepared for the Police and the Judiciary. These courses are also available online.

The issue of "Women, Peace and Security" beyond study, also entails technical know-how, which is why we must continue to train sector specialists and increasingly recruit *gender advisers* for the planning and the implementation of future initiatives. In this context the Italian government recognizes that *Capacity-building* and *Human Rights Education* are both essential and need to be further supported.

Taking into account the relevant documents, including, in particular, the 2011-2020 *UN Strategic Results Framework on Women, Peace and Security* and the most recent UN Resolutions of the Security Council, **the current second edition of the National Action Plan (2014-2016) primarily aims to build on the initiatives that Italy already supports or is implementing to reduce the negative impact of conflict and post-conflict situations on women and children, promoting, at the same time, the participation of women in the resolution and prevention of conflicts as "agents of change"**.

It is therefore important to provide a "Framework" to ensure that the UNSC resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions are properly included in the relevant actions, as violence against women and children remains one of the most prevalent forms of systematic violation of human rights worldwide. At the same time, there is no doubt that women must be able to contribute and play an essential role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

---

<sup>3</sup> UN Secretary-General, on the occasion of the last UN Security Council Open Debate – 18 October 2013.

<sup>4</sup> On March 1, 2005, based on the commitments made by Italy, within the G8 Summit at Sea Island in 2004, by which the Plan of Action, entitled "*Enhancing Global Capacity for Peace Support Operations (PSO)*" was adopted, the Carabinieri Corps set up the *Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units* (CoESPU), at the "Chinotto" Base in Vicenza, with the support of the U.S. State Department. The main goal of this Center is to increase global capacity for peace support operations, with specific attention to African countries.

At the latest debate on WPS in the Security Council (October 18, 2013), Italy expressly supported UN Secretary-General and the Director of UN Women reiterating that "the promotion of women's participation is essential to ensure a credible and lasting peace". To this end, as noted in the Secretary-General's report (UN Doc. S/2013/525), we must raise awareness, educate and train in order to ensure the adequacy of the systems. This becomes even more important as the principle of interdependence between the three pillars of the United Nations, i.e. Peace, Security, Development and Human Rights, is applied on a greater scale and is shared by a large number of States. This is an evolutionary interpretation of the Charter of the United Nations of significant weight at the international, regional and national levels<sup>5</sup>.

In the same spirit, it should be noted that the previous Plan (2010-2013) was an expression of the work developed by the Government in light of the first five UNSC resolutions: UNSCR1325 (2000), UNSCR1820 (2008), UNSCR1888 (2009), UNSCR1889 (2009) and UNSCR1960 (2010). It is quite clear that in the past three years we have seen the growing impact of this issue both globally and locally. The Italian government recognizes its breadth and thus aims to:

- 1. promote and strengthen the efforts and actions taken by all Authorities involved in the implementation of the new Plan;**
- 2. widen the scope of action of stakeholders in view of the rapid development of work in this field, both qualitatively and quantitatively, as can be seen in the last two resolutions, UNSCR 2106 (2013) and UNSCR 2122, adopted respectively between June and October 2013;**
- 3. promoting the systematization of existing actions, based on an integrated approach.**

In terms of **monitoring and evaluation**, unlike the previous edition (2010-2013), the Government **undertakes to submit an updated and revised report at the end of the first year, identifying the areas that need to be strengthened, especially following consultations with both civil society and the Parliament.** In addition, the Government will do its best in support of initiatives that civil society would like to develop in this direction.

With the new Plan, **Italy not only recognizes the relevance of its previous commitments, but also recognizes additional commitments** that need to be made swiftly and boldly in the full awareness of the current global and national economic situation, its limitations, and the spending cuts that have affected all public sectors.

From a substantive standpoint, **in line with the "3P Framework" (Prevention, Protection, Participation, and Relief and Recovery) (See UNSCR 1325 - 2000), the Italian Authorities will endeavor to promote gender equality, women's participation in all areas of human activity and women's human rights in general, through constant inter-ministerial work to ensure the effectiveness of the Plan. The current Plan, however, will retain the structure of the previous one.**

Ultimately, the Government will aim at:

1. reducing the impact of conflict on women and children;

---

<sup>5</sup> See UN Doc. A/RES/60/1.

2. promoting their inclusion in the processes of prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as their participation in decision-making processes at all levels;
3. raising awareness, educating and strengthening existing structures.

**In terms of procedures and operations, stock-taking has been done of the work of the following relevant Administrations: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (relevant General Directorates); the Ministry of Defense (Army, Navy, Air Force and Carabinieri Corps); Customs and Excise Police, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health (jointly with the National Institute on Health and Prevention of Poverty-Related Diseases (INMP); the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, in particular, the Department for Equal Opportunities at the Prime Minister's Office; National Council on Economics and Labor (CNEL); and the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) - the latter is essential in the collection of national gender-disaggregated data.<sup>6</sup>**

**Following this exercise, the aim is to expand the operating context by involving other stakeholders, also in view of the upcoming deadlines, such as the Italian semester of the EU Presidency (July-December 2014); the High Level Review of Resolution 1325; the Review of the Beijing Conference (Beijing +20); and the Post -2015 Development Agenda.**

Against this background, Italy values the role and contribution of civil society both internationally and nationally. It is **thus committed to strengthening its channels of communication and work.**

---

<sup>6</sup>As requested by the EU. On the occasion of the last Security Council debate (October 2013), the EU stressed the need to improve gender analysis and the collection of gender-disaggregated data.

## Introduction

On 31 October 2000, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted **Resolution 1325** on "Women, Peace and Security". This is the first Council resolution to explicitly mention the impact of war and conflict on women and the contribution of women themselves in conflict resolution and sustainable peace. From its adoption onward, Member States have been regularly invited – including the same Members of the Security Council - to strengthen their commitment to the implementation of UNSCR1325, by preparing National Action Plans.

The idea of "National Action Plans for the Implementation of Resolution 1325" was launched for the first time by the President of the UN Security Council in his Presidential Statement of 28 October 2004, inviting UN membership to push forward the implementation of Resolution 1325, "*including through the development of national action plans*".

In substance, the UNSCR1325 is known for:

1. recognizing that women and children are the most affected by the consequences of armed conflict;
2. recognizing that women play a vital role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts as well as in peace-building activities;
3. inviting Member States to ensure greater participation of women in all decision-making processes, in particular, in the mechanisms of prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.

The United Nations "zero tolerance" program is to be applied to military personnel, rebels, and *a fortiori* to its own personnel, both military and civilian, who sexually abuse civilians (women and children) in areas of conflict. Such abuses are morally unacceptable in addition to being in complete violation of international norms. These crimes are punishable by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and national courts - where any form of impunity must be considered inadmissible.<sup>7</sup>

In this same context, the UN General Assembly adopted a "United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel."<sup>8</sup> This Strategy involves assistance to victims in terms of medical care, legal services and psychological support. As for children born as a result of sexual exploitation or abuse, it envisages that the United Nations work with UN Member States to facilitate the implementation of procedures for paternity recognition.

Since the year 2000 to date, the Security Council has "legislated" in this sphere by unanimously adopting seven resolutions: UNSCR1325 (2000), UNSCR1820 (2008), UNSCR1888 (2009), UNSCR1889 (2009), UNSCR1960 (2010), UNSCR2106 (2013), UNSCR2122 (2013), with the additional UNSCR1983 (2011). This latter focuses on the impact of HIV and AIDS on women in conflict and post-conflict situations as well as on the need for specific measures on social, medical and psychological assistance (thus, also with a focus on reproductive health and family planning).

---

<sup>7</sup> See UNSCR1674 (2006) on the protection of civilians (et seq.).

<sup>8</sup> See UN Doc. A/RES/62/214, dated 7 March 2008.

The above resolutions fall under the relevant thematic sectoral Agenda, to be considered at all levels - internationally, regionally, nationally and locally<sup>9</sup>. However, other SC resolutions can be integrated with the Agenda and can be equally considered, such as UNSCR1674 (2006) on the protection of civilians.

---

<sup>9</sup> With regard to the implementation of the R2P Theory, the UNSG's reports place specific emphasis on both protection and empowerment. Likewise, we must consider the necessary changes to the WPS Agenda as a result of other SC resolutions, such as those referring to the protection of civilians. More generally, we should reflect on the concept of "endangering human security and its relating implications".

## **Background**

The implementation of UNSCR1325 is a primary task for the international community. Bilateral and multilateral mechanisms and/or regional and international organizations, such as the United Nations and the European Union, often intervene in conflict and post-conflict situations, where States are unable to do so or are in need of help.

At the **multilateral level**, the Italian government has always supported the implementation of UNSCR1325 by promoting outreach, disseminating knowledge and raising awareness at all levels. Italy's support has mainly been of a political nature; therefore not always immediately measurable. Its support has been focused on promoting awareness and encouraging wide consensus on this matter. For instance, during its first two-year term on the Security Council, Italy promoted a "*practical-minded 1325 informal group*" to work on strengthening and consolidating women's participation in political processes in close collaboration with other members of the EU and the UN at large.

Italy also took effective political action on this issue by making an important contribution to the adoption of **Resolution 1820 (2008)** on the subject of **sexual violence in armed conflict**. Our country was, in fact, at the forefront of negotiations in terms of finally recognizing the link between international security and sexual violence - as the latter can significantly exacerbate armed conflicts and thus impede the restoration of peace and international security when used as a tactic of war. Even after its sixth term on the Security Council, Italy continues to pay special attention to the issue by working on the follow-up to resolution 1325 and on subsequent resolutions.

- The UN Security Council has shown a growing interest in protecting the rights of women and children in conflict areas, unanimously approving the following resolutions in a very short lapse of time: **UNSCR 1882 (2009)**, focused on children's rights in situations of armed conflict, **UNSCRs 1888, 1889 (2009)** on sexual violence in situations of armed conflict; **UNSCR 1960 (2010)** on the development of a system based on "*accountability*", by which the publication of a list of offenders was envisaged.

Over the past few years, Italy has continued to support the advancement and implementation of resolution 1325, as well as of other documents from different contexts, such as the G8 summits. The Ministerial Declaration of the London Summit held in April 2013, strongly supported by Italy, also favored the adoption of **UNSCR 2106 in June 2013**, clarifying and strengthening the role of the UN system in preventing and responding to sexual violence in armed conflict. Shortly after **UNSCR 2122 (October 2013)** was adopted. This was a more holistic resolution aimed at improving the working methods for the UNSCR1325 Agenda implementation and, overall, at ensuring women's full participation and their taking the lead in conflict resolution and *peace-building*. The resolution came in preparation of the High Level Review of UNSCR1325 to take place in 2015, in parallel with the review of the Beijing Conference and the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in which gender equality is expected to be one of its main Objectives.

Italy recognizes the importance of reading relevant resolutions, in particular, the recent UNSCR2122 together with the latest report of the UN Secretary-General (**UN Doc.S/2013/525**), which emphasizes the need to focus on all forms of human rights violations affecting women in

armed conflicts<sup>10</sup>. It also focuses on women's economic security and the primary causes of violence that need to be tackled by appropriate national capacities.<sup>11</sup>

In October 2013, during the annual debate of the Security Council on UNSCR1325, Italy fully supported the effective participation of women in all sectors of society, particularly their access to justice and decision-making processes and to electoral positions, linking these efforts to the cause of combating violence against women and children. **The connection between women's empowerment and combating violence against women and children will be focused upon also in view of Italy's forthcoming candidacy to the Security Council for the 2017-2018 term. This is a broad-based and cross-cutting issue, requiring operational strategies where the role of women as "agents of change" in all life sectors should be acknowledged and re-enforced – so that women are no longer considered mere survivors of violence.**

Italy, as the seventh largest contributor to the United Nations, has fully supported the work of UN Women since its inception, and works closely, in particular, with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children Involved in Armed Conflict, as well as with the Office of the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict. The Italian government has also contributed to the Peace-Building Fund since its establishment, and thus ranks among the top fifteen contributors to the United Nations<sup>12</sup>.

Throughout the year, Italy also participates in various initiatives organized by other UN Member States and by civil society, usually at the sidelines of sessions of the main UN bodies, including the UN Human Rights Council. With reference to the latter, Italy will be developing in the upcoming months a specific initiative on early and/or forced marriages.<sup>13</sup>

In abidance of the international legal obligations undertaken by Italy **with the ratification of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, in July 2011 Italy was among the first States Parties to mention its NAP on UNSCR1325 before the CEDAW Committee in New York. In the same spirit, Italy welcomed the recent General Recommendation No. 30 of the CEDAW Committee, focused on the role of "women in the prevention of conflicts and in conflict and post-conflict situations". Italy **is fully committed to it** and will begin relaying its work starting with the next periodic report to the CEDAW Convention.

Italy<sup>14</sup> has made pledges within the UN **Human Rights Council** to combating violence against women, and over the years, its commitment has been shaped by continuous support for all the initiatives related to this issue. In its previous NAP, Italy was also the first country to recognize the importance of the UNSCR1325 in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

During the **G8 Summit held in London** on April 10-11, 2013, Italy supported the Declaration on the Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict (PSVI), emphasizing the need for 'appropriate action to combat the culture of impunity by strengthening judicial mechanisms through various initiatives in the field of cooperation and development. The Declaration confirms that "rape and other serious

---

<sup>10</sup> See Paras. 4,6,10,40,42,48.

<sup>11</sup> See Paras. 1, 14, 48, 73, lett. c.

<sup>12</sup> See [www.unpbf.org](http://www.unpbf.org)

<sup>13</sup> See [http://www.eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article\\_14143\\_en.htm](http://www.eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_14143_en.htm)

<sup>14</sup> See [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org)

forms of sexual violence in armed conflict fall under war crimes and constitute serious violations of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I<sup>15</sup>."

At the Summit, Italy welcomed the General Assembly's adoption, on April 2, 2013, of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Its implementation serves to promote, inter alia, the protection of human rights for all - men, women and children. Thus, Italy not only signed the Treaty, but also promptly ratified it with Act No. 118, dated October 4, 2013.

More specifically, this cross-regional initiative led by the UK has sought and continues to seek to draw the attention of the international community to the issue of sexual violence perpetrated in conflict areas; to assist victims of violence and human rights defenders - as already requested by the President of the UN Security Council (UN Doc S/PRST/2012/23) in his related statement. It also aims to streamline investigations and the collection of evidence on the crimes committed, and prosecute perpetrators of these crimes in a timely fashion (improving the investigative process and judicial system will also have a clear preventive impact, with the aim of putting an end to impunity). The initiative aims to stop systematic rapes and other serious forms of sexual violence committed in situations of conflict.

As noted above, the British initiative, supported by Italy since the beginning, is being promoted in all multilateral fora. During the opening Ministerial Week of the UN General Assembly, a new political Declaration was adopted. The Declaration focuses on "*A commitment to end sexual violence in conflict*," to reiterate that sexual violence during war is one of the most widespread, persistent and underestimated types of offense (as of today, the Declaration has been signed by over 130 countries).

Furthermore, it is hoped that the PSVI will culminate with the General Assembly's adoption of an "International Protocol on the Investigation and Documentation of Incidents of Sexual Violence Committed during Armed Conflict" (known as the London Protocol<sup>16</sup>). Our country fully supports the British initiative as gender violence is a priority for both Italy and the UK, in our foreign policies regarding human rights issues and in **development cooperation**. In fact, Italy has always supported multilateral efforts and has cooperated in many parts of the world.

As part of our ongoing action in development cooperation, Italy has promoted numerous initiatives to assist victims of gender-based violence. The programs, especially those entrusted to international organizations (IOM and UNFPA), take place in **the MENA region (Lebanon projects – for Syrian refugees; Libya; and the Occupied Palestinian Territories) and in Sub-Saharan Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo/Northern Kivu; and Sudan-Darfur)**. These **comprise financial commitments of over 3.5 million Euros**.

**To meet the demands of the UK to mobilize new financial resources to assist victims of rape, a contribution was planned in 2013, in accordance with Act No. 180/92<sup>17</sup> in favor of the ICC Fund for the victims.<sup>18</sup> In addition, on the occasion of the above G-8 Ministerial Meeting, Italy further increased its funding, owing to an extraordinary contribution of the Italian Cooperation of 0.5 million euros. It was directed to the UN Women Trust Fund for assistance**

---

<sup>15</sup> See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g8-declaration-on-preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict>

<sup>16</sup> Similar in rationale to the Istanbul Protocol on torture, which Italy has quickly translated and circulated throughout the penitentiary sector, thanks to the specific work of the Department of Penitentiary Administration between 2008 and 2009.

<sup>17</sup> Amounting to 40,000 Euros.

<sup>18</sup> See [https://www.google.it/?gfe\\_rd=cr&ei=hCQOU5LnDsvW8gf0zIGYAw#q=ICC+fund+for+victims+](https://www.google.it/?gfe_rd=cr&ei=hCQOU5LnDsvW8gf0zIGYAw#q=ICC+fund+for+victims+)

**to victims of sexual violence in conflict zones in the MENA area (150,000 euros) and in Sub-Saharan Africa (350,000 euros).** The cause is high on the agenda also for institution-building initiatives, especially in the fields of security and justice, which we conduct in countries in transition (**Libya, Afghanistan, Somalia**), besides inspiring the training modules for those UN peacekeepers hosted by CoESPU (Centre of Excellence for the Stability Police Units of Vicenza), which is managed by the Carabinieri Corps and is supported by the US Government.

Within **NATO**, upon Italy's repeated references to the importance of recent developments in the implementation of UNSCR1325, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council decided to integrate it into the Organization's policies and programs. A guiding policy document was approved by EAPC NATO in 2007, aiming at fully integrating resolution 1325 et seq. in all activities of the Alliance, and was followed by the adoption of an action plan for the integration of resolution 1325 in all NATO-led operations and missions, approved by the Heads of State and Government at the Lisbon Summit of November 2010. Subsequently, during the Chicago Summit of 2012, participants decided to launch a study on the practical implications of UNSCR 1325 for Alliance missions, led by the Swedish *Nordic Center for Gender in Military Operations*.<sup>19</sup> In August 2012, for the first time, NATO's Secretary-General appointed a Special Representative on "Women, Peace and Security" assisted by an expert on gender issues, who is an Italian national.

Within **OSCE**, the *OSCE-wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security* is taking shape. Italy is committed to fully supporting it by sharing and exchanging good/best practices developed in the different areas covered by the National Plan.<sup>20</sup>

Within **the EU**, Italy supports various initiatives, such as the tripartite agreement between the EU, UNDP and UN Women dated February 2012, as well as the resolutions and initiatives developed by the EU External Action Service (EEAS) and by the various Member States of the EU in different contexts and, in particular, through UN mechanisms and fora.

It is also true that much remains to be done. In June 2013, during the Annual Meeting of EU experts, focused on *transitional justice*, the important role of mediators and gender experts was stressed. In this scenario, **Italy intends to actively endeavor to face the growing need for training specific personnel; at the same time, Italy also commits to fully adopting and disseminating** the *EU Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities (Doc. 15779/09)*<sup>21</sup>, therein annexed (Annex No. 5).

In accordance with the EU Document "*Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security (Doc.15671/1/08 REVI)*"<sup>22</sup> and "Within the Strategic Context and the EU Plan on Human Rights and Democracy" adopted in June 2012 (Doc. 11855/2012 - in particular Action 12),<sup>23</sup> the revised National Action Plan aims to reaffirm Italy's strong commitment to this sector while also showing signs of renewal.

---

<sup>19</sup> In 2013, Italy contributed 7,000 euros to this study.

<sup>20</sup> See <http://www.osce.org/fsc/101417>

<sup>21</sup> See [http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/conflict\\_prevention/docs/concept\\_strengthening\\_eu\\_med\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/conflict_prevention/docs/concept_strengthening_eu_med_en.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> In light of information from civil society and, in particular, from the Working Group on Gender, Peace and Security of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office - including the Civil Defense Studies Center: "10 points on 10 years UNSCR 1325 in Europe (CSO Position Paper on Europe-wide implementation of UNSCR 1325)" and its follow-up, as well as the previous "Civil Society Recommendations on the Implementation of UNSCR1325 in Europe" (in which Pangea actively participated as one of the most active CSOs in this area). See [www.epl.org/gender-peace-and-security](http://www.epl.org/gender-peace-and-security); [www.pacedifesa.org/canale.asp?id=359](http://www.pacedifesa.org/canale.asp?id=359)

<sup>23</sup> That the EU has decided to make it even more operational (See EU Doc. 11855/2012 – "Action 12 in the field of human rights in all EU external policies", entitled "Reflecting Human Rights in Conflict Prevention and in Crisis Management-related Activities"), in light of the following documents: "Comprehensive Approach for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security".

Therefore, in order to intensify its participation in this process, Italy will provide a coherent and well-structured framework for a more coordinated action in implementing the above resolutions and in conducting other activities that may emerge from different areas.<sup>24</sup>

To strengthen and coordinate efforts in the protection of women, children and other vulnerable groups involved in conflict or post-conflict situations, an inter-ministerial working group has been set up at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led by the recently re-established Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human Rights (CIDU), with the support of the Human Rights Unit of the General Directorate for Political Affairs and Security dealing with multilateral affairs.

More specifically, this Group - responsible for drafting the new National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR (1325)2000 and its subsequent resolutions – is made up of the following: the OSCE and NATO Offices both belonging to the same General Directorate, together with the General Directorate for Development Cooperation, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defence and the General Command of the Carabinieri Corps, the Revenue Guards Corps, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, the Department for Equal Opportunities at the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Health (jointly with INMP), CNEL, as well as the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT).

The Group has benefited from the contribution and active participation of civil society, in particular of relevant Non-Governmental Organizations – of which we acknowledge the role. In this context **the above Group commits to a more inclusive dialogue with NGOs, given the centrality of their activities in the field, as well as their ability to assess sectoral initiatives and identify existing gaps and challenges, both present and future.**

Taking into account the above resolutions and other UN documents related to this issue, such as the UN Secretary-General's annual reports and the "UN Women Guidelines on Women, Peace and Security: Guidelines for National Implementation", the above Working Group has produced a summary of the activities conducted to date and those still underway. On the basis of the activities carried out by the respective Administrations, the Group has defined its objectives, main lines of action, and its *commitments*. With the commitments and projects undertaken by Italy, the current Plan, while showing its "strategic content", is a work in progress and will be subjected to further additions in the next two years.

- The Plan shall remain in force for a period of two years and will be constantly monitored through high-level and specific annual meetings and progressive *reporting*. The reporting will be conducted with relevant CSOs, to guarantee operational effectiveness and will be geared toward a more holistic and synergetic approach, especially in light of the aforementioned upcoming regional and international deadlines, in particular the High Level Review of UNSCR1325, scheduled for September-October 2015.

---

adopted by the Council of the European Union on 8 December 2008, and the updated operational Document on the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) dated 3 December 2008 (EU Document 15782/3/08 REV 3).

<sup>24</sup> Likewise, the following UN documents should be considered: « 8 points of Agenda for women's empowerment and gender equality in crisis prevention and recovery UNDP; the UN Strategic Results Framework, 2011-2020", and the relevant UN Women Guidelines, retrievable from the following websites:

[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/wps/Strategic\\_Framework\\_2011-2020.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/wps/Strategic_Framework_2011-2020.pdf);

<http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Media/Publications/en/02BPlanonWomenandPeaceandSecurity.pdf>.

**THE UN'S MAIN OBJECTIVES AND ITALY'S AREAS OF ACTION**

The National Action Plan ensures that a *gender perspective* will be incorporated in all political areas supporting the concept of peace and will be adopted in all practical measures used for the promotion and protection of peace. In this context, as noted, resolution UNSCR1325 envisages three main goals:

1. Prevention of violence against women and children and the protection of their rights during and after armed conflicts;
2. Greater participation of women in peace-building processes;
3. Application of a gender approach in all projects and programs related to the promotion of peace.

The above objectives relate to: violence against women during conflict, conflict's prevention and peace-building, peacekeeping missions and development cooperation. This second edition of the National Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 aims to support the course of action indicated in Res 1325 and in subsequent resolutions. **To this end, the Inter-Ministerial Working Group highlights, as follows, a number of objectives and their status of implementation, indicating further *commitments* that Italy intends to make, both nationally and internationally.**

**1. Enhance women's presence in the national Armed Forces as well as within national police forces, by strengthening their role in decision-making processes related to peace missions**

The presence of female staff members is very important within the Armed Forces, where they are successfully deployed in international peacekeeping missions as well as in the police force: the recruitment of female staff members is increasing, confirming the importance and the need of specific training for both male and female personnel, not only in relation to "Women, Peace and Security", but also to international Humanitarian Law and international Human Rights Law.

*The Police and Defense sectors*

To understand the progress made by Italy's State Police, it is necessary to briefly recall the milestones reached for women's access and strengthened role in this field. In 1959, the **State Police** was the first state body to allow women access to their ranks, with tasks initially focused on the protection of children. In 1981, with the new Order of the Administration of Public Security (approved by Act No.121 of 1 April 1981), the principle of equal opportunities between men and women was officially introduced. The principle states that there is absolute equality between male and female personnel in terms of job placement and career advancement.<sup>25</sup>

On June 30, 2013, there were 15,219 women in the State Police: 13,370 of which were assigned to patrol and mobile teams; while 1,849 were assigned to technical, administrative and managerial tasks. These numbers show an increase of 1.02 % compared to the data provided in the 2010 Action Plan (which recorded a female population of about 14,879 units). Occupying the higher ranks are seven women as "*Questori* (Senior police officers)" and 194 employees with directorial/executive functions.

With regard to State Police personnel in peacekeeping missions, 3 operators, including 2 women, have been deployed in the EULEX mission currently taking place in Kosovo.

- This staff participates in induction preparatory training which covers, inter alia, the following subjects: International Law, International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law, Cultural Anthropology and Stress Management.

The establishment of a **women's voluntary military service**, pursuant to Act No. 380 of October 20, 1999 (as now included in Legislative Decree No. 66/2010, containing the Code of the Military Order), has extended the possibility for women to be recruited in the Armed Forces.

- The recruitment (always voluntary), status and career advancement of female military personnel have been provided for by Legislative Decree No.24 of January 31, 2000, - as subsequently converted into Legislative Decree No. 198, dated April 11, 2006, ("*Code of equal opportunities between men and women*"), and later into Legislative Decree No. 66 of 2010. Paragraph 6 of Article 1 of the above Act No. 380 included setting maximum quotas for the recruitment of female staff in different roles, bodies, categories and specializations of each Armed Force. This was established by the Minister of Defence and proposed by the Chief of the Defence Staff. **As of 2006, these quotas have been eliminated to ensure full**

---

<sup>25</sup>See also Legislative Decree, dated 15 March 2010, No.66, entitled "Code of Military Order".

**access of female personnel** - pursuant to Art. 26 of Act No. 29 dated 25 January 2006 and introduced in Legislative Decree No. 66 of 2010.

As of 1 July 2013, the percentage of female staff recruited stands at about 4 % (10,887 out of a total of 289,840 of both genders, while it amounts to about 5% in theaters of conflict). Despite the relatively brief period, data shows that women's presence is today a well established and integrated reality of military staff. **In fact, women's first access to all categories and roles of the Armed Forces dates back to about 14 years ago.**

Moreover, the presence of women is essential for certain specific tasks and thus for the overall achievement of the objectives of a mission.<sup>26</sup> **The role of women is, in some cases, crucial to the achievement of a mission's objectives. For example, when approaching women in Islamic cultures - this can only happen through female military personnel and/or female staff in general; in check point, search and seizure-related activities; and female military doctors in countries, such as Afghanistan and Iraq, where they are often involved in resolving health issues affecting women - while respecting their culture and religion.**

**In terms of good/best practices, the Carabinieri Corps is also employing female staff in missions outside the national territory, such as: TIPH in Hebron; UNFICYP in Cyprus; and NATO Training. In this latter program, female staff members are employed as Advisors assisting Afghan police-women and covering safety duties related to polling stations (which are separate between men and women) for the upcoming elections scheduled in 2014. With regard to the Somali MIADIT Mission, at the request of the Somali government, the Italian Army deployed in Djibouti includes a training unit of 30, which include a female Captain and a female Marshal who are training about 200 Somali police, twelve of which are women.**

As for the deployment in international organizations in Italy and abroad, **no position is barred to women** and no legislation currently bans their presence. In any case, the Chiefs of the Armed Forces publish the international positions to be filled, and thereafter appropriately assess the individual and professional qualifications of the proposed candidates, submitting their selection to the Minister of Defense, in accordance with Act No. 25 of 18 February 1997, now Legislative Decree No. 66 of 2010, and of its Presidential Decree No.556, dated 25 October 1999, reformulated in the Decree of the President of the Republic No. 90 of 2010.

At present, the Italian military personnel assigned to international organizations are as follows: a Captain of the Italian Army as *Staff Officer (Development)* and *Gender Advisor* at the *Allied Command Operations Headquarters Land Command IZMIR (TUR)*; an Air Force Captain, at the *European Space Agency (ESA)* as an astronaut; a captain of the Carabinieri as *AIDE Deputy Supreme Allied Command Transformation*, Norfolk; a lieutenant of the Italian Army as a *Staff Officer of the Legal & Policy Department* at the *Centre of Excellence - Cyber Defence Cooperative* in Tallinn (Estonia); a Chief of the Italian Army as Assistant at the *NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-UK*; a Navy Lieutenant Commander as a national delegate to the *NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives (NCGP)*.

---

<sup>26</sup> See also the data provided by the Ministry of Defense on 1 July 2010 and related to the previous Action Plan – Italian female military personnel (excluding military chaplains – 144 units) Armed Forces Officers Junior Officers Troop Total number of Armed Forces %Women compared to the number of Armed Forces Army 2366966376942106.7856,50% Navy 227 (CEMM)/86 (CP)116 (CEMM)/ 29 (CP)733 (CEMM)/542 (CP)1076 (CEMM)/ 657 (CP)43910 (32986 CEMM) e (10924 CP)3,95% Air Force 15474581809431481,87% Carabinieri 17939749110671095970,97% Total 105513034403,48%

WOMEN PERSONNEL – 1 JULY 2013								
ARMED FORCES	CATEGORY	FEMALE STAFF	TOTAL	TOTAL NUMBER Armed Forces	%Women			
ARMY	OFFICERS	300	6,424	100,770	6.37%			
	NCOs	140						
	Troop Perm. service	2,350				5,984		
	Troop Short term	3,489						
Cadets	145							
NAVY	CEMM	OFFICERS	312	1,132	31,345	41,972	4.39%	
		NCOs	125					
		Troop Perm Serv.	279					695
		Troop Short Term	330					
	Cadets	86						
	CP	OFFICERS	150	709	10,627			
		NCOs	35					
		Troop Perm Serv.	156					524
Troop Short Term		346						
Cadets	22							
AIR FORCE	OFFICERS	187	956	41,551	2.30%			
	NCOs	181						
	Troop Perm. Serv.	185				588		
	Troop Short Term	303						
Cadets	100							
CARABINIERI	OFFICERS	207	1,666	105,547	1.58%			
	NCOs	573						
	Troop Perm Serv.	757				886		
	Troop Short Term	0						
Cadets	129							
TOTAL			10,887	289,840	3.76%			

The Armed Forces, since the initial recruitment of female military personnel, have always paid special attention to the principles of equal opportunity and fair treatment as the basic criteria inspiring the mentality and motivation of its staff. In terms of best practices, **in 2002**, the Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Defense issued special **Directive** ("*Military Ethics*"), which is an actual **code of conduct** designed to prevent unlawful conduct among staff members. The Guidelines offer instructions as to the conduct of staff in performing their functions and duties.

The Guidelines also highlight how the full application of the principle of equality of rights and duties is a guarantee for the proper performance of duties. Their contents have currently been incorporated into a larger document, applicable to all Inter-Forces, called: "*Guidelines on Equal Treatment, Interpersonal Relationships, Family Protection and Parenting*". This document serves

to harmonize the approaches to special issues of common interest and increase internal communication of the commitments Italy has made in international contexts. The document, among other topics, discusses the following:

- **“gender mainstreaming” and gender perspective;**
- **the legal framework (national legislation, situation at the international level and the National Action Plan);**
- **education and training in relation to gender perspective;**
- **the professional role of “gender advisor”;**
- **staff integration and interpersonal relationships;**
- **Combating discrimination against female staff, in particular, by fighting attitudes and deviant behavior (general harassment, sexual harassment, "bullying", "stalking").**

The **Ministry of Defence**, particularly following the last consideration of Italy before the UN CEDAW Committee (New York, July 2011), has given a green light to a series of actions aimed at improving the implementation of: UNSCR1325 (2000) et seq.; the National Action Plan on "Women, Peace and Security (WPS); and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in our country. These actions have been realized as follows:

- a. The establishment of a dedicated organizational unit, at the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Defence, called "Equal Opportunities and Gender Perspective." This unit was created in evolution of the existing "Female Military Staff" Section (created in 2000 for the first recruitment of women in the Armed Forces) and it serves to integrate women into the military. Its primary task is the implementation of a gender perspective and, therefore, of the contents of resolution 1325 (2000) within the Armed Forces and within the Carabinieri Corps, also through constant cooperation with the NATO *Committee on Gender Perspectives*. This Unit is the Focal Point for the development of gender policies within the Joint Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Defence and is responsible for overseeing the Armed Forces and Carabinieri training programs for integrating a gender perspective. Furthermore, it has the additional task of conducting statistical studies, organizing training on special topics and events, including the media, aimed at spreading a gender culture. The Unit is responsible for the implementation of the provisions of resolution 1325 within *Inter-Forze*, which is the national Focal Point for NATO-related activities and for other national and international organizations dealing with these specific topics.**
- b. A legislative proposal, which was incorporated in Legislative Decree No.7 of 28 January 2014, integrated into Act No. 244/2012 -, concerning the revision of the military, brought to the establishment of a new body, called "Joint Inter-Force Council on Gender Perspective". This body would have the powers of the "Advisory Committee for the recruitment of female voluntary staff in the Armed Forces and inside the Revenue Guards Corps", and perform other tasks related to gender issues, but its mandate came to an end on 13 July 2012, due to a cut in public finances pursuant to Law Decree No.95/2012 – known as the "Spending Review".**
- o In practice, this development at the domestic level shows what recently happened within the Alliance vis-à-vis the NATO *Committee on Gender Perspectives*, created through the reorganization of the former *Committee on Women in the Armed Forces*. It is also in line with the previous "National Action Plan" for the**

**implementation of resolution 1325(2000), given that the document aims to increase and enhance the Advisory Committee's tasks. The new body will see to the improvement of the organizational structure of the military sector and, in particular, it will focus on the following: assisting Italy's Chief of Staff of Defense in the planning, coordination and evaluation of the integration of male and female staff in the Armed Forces and in the Carabinieri Corps; advising on how to provide assistance to the families of military staff, primarily those engaged in international missions, and on the adoption of a gender perspective, according to resolution 1325 et seq.; assisting in the preparation and monitoring the effectiveness of guidelines on gender issues, on the integration of personnel, on equal opportunities, on eradicating discrimination, on the well-being of staff members, on the protection of family and parenting, also for statistical purposes; providing advice on communication-related activities of the Joint Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Defense, on issues of particular relevance, and on the organization of events aimed at spreading the culture of gender equality and integration among the Armed Forces and the Carabinieri Corps; discussing these topics with relevant national and international organizations, in order to provide the Joint Staff Chief at the Ministry of Defense with suggestions for actions to be taken to improve the internal organization.**

In addition, the impartiality of the above Council will be guaranteed by its cooperation, entailing no fees, with other branches of Government (*primarily* the Department for Equal Opportunities at the Prime Minister's Office). The composition of the Council will ensure equal representation of both sexes.

- c. The establishment of the professional posts of *Gender Advisor/Gender Field Advisor/Gender Focal Point* is a reality.** Pending the effective implementation of these professional posts, some officers from all Armed Forces, including the Carabinieri Corps, are already attending the related training course at the *Nordic Center for Gender in Military Operations* of the *Swedish Armed Forces International Centre* (SWEDINT) in Sweden. This purpose is also to create a network of staff that will facilitate the dissemination of knowledge on this subject. As of today, 9 officers have been qualified (six officers from the Army, one from the Navy, one from the Air Force, and one from the Carabinieri). In addition, one Army officer has also taken the training course for instructor on gender-related issues (*Gender trainer of trainers*).
- d.** In the same context, we provide NATO, the European Union (EU) and the *SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE DEFENSE MINISTERIAL (SEDM* – this is an initiative launched in 1996 with the aim of promoting integration in the Security and Defense sectors among Member-States belonging to south-eastern Europe) with legal opinions on these issues, offered by national representatives attending relevant meetings. The levels of participation include: 1) *Defense Ministers*, 2) *Under-Secretaries of State for Defense*, 3) *Deputy Chiefs of the Defense Staff*. *The Secretariat rotates among member countries.*
- e.** The candidature of CoESPU has been presented to NATO as a Centre of Excellence for training on *sexual and gender-based violence* (SGBV) for other *gendarmerie* forces from allied countries.

At the upcoming **NATO Summit, scheduled for September 2014 in the United Kingdom**, the Alliance aims to reaffirm and strengthen its commitment to put into action the provisions of resolution 1325 and its subsequent resolutions and keeping the issue a priority for the agenda of the

international community. To support this effort, Italy will contribute to the activities of the NATO Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, a sum of 75,000 euros.<sup>27</sup>

Italy is **also committed to initiatives based on resolution 1325, at both Organizations**<sup>28</sup> in view of the fact that the NATO Summit will take place during the Italian Presidency of the European Union (July-December 2014). **Italy's vision will encompass the complementarity of efforts of both NATO and the EU on issues related to "Women, Peace and Security" in the post-conflict phase, specifically with regard to "capacity-building" initiatives and providing education and training to security forces. In this context, we intend to explore the possibility of drafting a joint declaration between NATO and the European Union (by the Secretary-General or High Representative), possibly with the involvement of the United Nations.**

---

<sup>27</sup> Added to the 2014 Missions Decree, to be submitted for parliamentary approval.

<sup>28</sup> NATO and EU.

---

## **2. Promoting a gender perspective in *peace-support operations***

The promotion of a gender perspective in *peace-support operations* entails an actual process, equal to the action undertaken by **the Ministry of Defense**. To this end, and in line with the previous National Plan, the Ministry is creating, through competent offices and with specific projects, professional posts, such as *gender advisers*. **Italy intends to strengthen this initiative and path**. Gender-related activities are carried out by the **Italian Cooperation**, particularly in institution-strengthening efforts in the areas of security and justice in countries in transition, such as **Libya, Afghanistan, and Somalia**. These activities have also inspired the learning modules for UN peacekeepers in Third countries, hosted at the Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units of Vicenza (**CoESPU**), which is managed by the Carabinieri Corps.

More specifically, since the 90s the **Italian Development Cooperation (DGCS)** has launched a number of initiatives as part of development and emergency aid programs, which confirm the need for intervention: in times of conflict, to support victims of violence; and in *post-conflict* situations and reconstruction, with support for women's associations so as to enable them to adequately participate in the planning process of these interventions to the benefit of their community of origin.

From a historical standpoint, the revival of gender issues took place in the second half of the past decade, beginning with the 2007 Bamako Conference, "Women Protagonists in West Africa", which made it possible to significantly increase DGCS interventions to achieve Millennium Development Goal No.3 (gender equality and women's empowerment), through the following:

1. the launching of a policy dialogue on gender-related issues with the presence of experts on the subject at the Local Technical Units (UTC) in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal and Palestine;
2. the implementation of programs related to women's empowerment, amounting to approximately 30 million euros, and the introduction of gender analysis in emergency programs in Lebanon and Palestine;
3. the participation in UN multilateral initiatives and campaigns (particularly on violence against women and Female Genital Mutilation), accounting for approximately ten million euros;
4. the participation in major international campaigns, in collaboration with international agencies, such as UNFPA and UNIFEM, has also allowed Italy to play a major role at the Security Council level, when considering the relevant UN Resolution with specific regard to women's role in conflict situations (UNSCR1325) under UNSCR1820.; the latter recognizing that sexual violence is used as a weapon of war and constitutes a crime against humanity.<sup>29</sup>

---

<sup>29</sup>

It is particularly important that DAC officials and those from countries participating in the Peer Review of Italy in 2009, under the OECD, have recognized Italy's increased efforts to achieve the Third Millennium Development Goal by its General Directorate for Development Cooperation. The need to support the volume of aid made available for this purpose is supported in the final recommendations, although we see a "decline" of the total resources allocated to the Italian Development Cooperation. It is equally important to see that the final suggestions indicate the need to strengthen the mechanisms of "*mainstreaming*" to enhance the role of women in programs and initiatives promoted by the DGDC.

Women's *empowerment* is thus confirmed as a cross-cutting, priority issue for Italy, as envisaged in the Italian Development Cooperation Guidelines and in the Cooperation Planning for the 2011-2013 triennium.<sup>30</sup>

**Geographically, planning is particularly oriented towards Sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe, while its thematic points are directed toward the following objectives:**

- 1. the implementation of specific programmes focused on women's *empowerment* and national institutions *capacity-building*, also to facilitate women's participation in reconstruction processes in countries experiencing armed conflict (particularly in Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories);**
- 2. the promotion of *mainstreaming* actions, covering the areas of food security and environment, in order to promote women's roles in programs aimed to combat poverty (particular attention is given to programs that provide women access to the job market and entrepreneurship, including through micro-credit and vocational programs);**
- 3. the strengthening of cooperation with multilateral agencies, focused on reproductive health-related issues and fully engaged in combating all forms of violence against women and girls.**

More generally and in keeping with: "*The programming is especially oriented towards Sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe, on the following objectives*”:

*A. Specific programs focused on women's empowerment and national institutions capacity building, also to facilitate women's participation in reconstruction processes in countries experiencing armed conflict (particularly in Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories. In the Balkans and in Kosovo, Italy has particularly funded specific actions for women in the early stages of conflict and post-conflict situations. Italy is also working on: women's empowerment and capacity-building related projects; reproductive health; combating violence against women and girls; and mainstreaming programs on gender issues, especially in the health-care sector, in the effort to improve women's health by expanding access to healthcare and reproductive health services; as well as on the development of new judicial systems in Afghanistan, Lebanon, the Palestinian Autonomous Territories, Somalia and the Sudan.*

*B. Mainstreaming actions covering the areas of food security and environment in order to promote women's roles in programs aimed to combat poverty (particular attention is given to programs that provide women access to jobs and entrepreneurship, including through micro-credit and vocational programs);*

*C. The strengthening of cooperation with multilateral agencies focused on reproductive health and fully engaged in combating all forms of violence against women and girls. Worthy of mention is the involvement of UN Funds, Agencies and Programs, such as UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNICRI (with specific focus on combating trafficking in human beings), UN Women, IOM, and the Intergovernmental Organization IDLO (for legal empowerment).*

On the basis of these needs and of an ever changing international scenario for the management of development policies, as defined by the 2005 Paris Declaration and by the *Accra Agenda for Action* on Aid Effectiveness, the 2011-2013 Guidelines on Gender Equality and

---

<sup>30</sup>

See <http://www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgcs/italiano/LineeGuida/LineeGuida.html>

Women’s Empowerment represent a milestone for Italy’s strategic and operational action for development and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular, MDG No. 3.

**From an operational perspective, we will continue to work on:**

- 1. Political dialogue with countries and partner agencies for the implementation of the main UN Security Council resolutions, as well as of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);**
- 2. Actions to prevent and combat violence against women, seen as a violation of fundamental human rights and thus is a cross-cutting, social theme in all programs of the Cooperation;**
- 3. Agreements between governments and the launching of international initiatives to end female genital mutilation as well as to improve women's health in general and finance training for NGO staff members and public organizations engaged in this field.**
- 4. Measures aimed at strengthening communication and education, providing, for example, information and training on human rights and gender issues are also welcomed in developing countries.**

**List of current ongoing initiatives based on data provided by the Local Technical Units of the General Directorate for Development Cooperation**

<b>Territorial Zone</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Performer</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>Year</b>
AFG	ACTIVITIES RELATED TO GENDER POLICIES. GENDER EQUALITY PROJECT II	UNDP	600,000.00	(reallocation, remaining from completed projects)
	FIGHT AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBU) AND VICTIMS’ PROTECTION	UN-WOMEN	1,500,000.00	2013 (approved)
	PROMOTION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS	UNFPA	500,000.00	2005-2012
	INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR GENDER EQUALITY	UNDP	2,300,000.00	2010-2013
	9544 ACTION AID – INTEGRATED APPROACH FOR THE REDUCTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	ACTION AID	716,000.00	2010-2013

	10179 COSPE – PRECIOUS LIVES - - INTEGRATED PROJECT FOR RETURNING DIGNITY TO AFGHAN WOMEN	COSPE	1,499,850.00	2013
BM	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION FOR THE UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITHIN BMVO	UN-WOMEN	150,000.00	2013
GIN	PROMOTION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND GENDER EQUALITY	UNFPA	750,000.00	2013
IRQ	IMPROVEMENT OF MOTHERS' AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH IN KURDISTAN	SASSARI UNIV.	997,344.00	2012-2013
LBN	WOMEN WITHIN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT GOVERNANCE	LEBANESE GOV.	700,000.00	2009-2013
MLI	EMERGENCY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF CONFLICT ESPECIALLY CHILDREN AND WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND.....	DGCS	600,000.00	2013
PAK	FOOD AID TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM DISTRICTS AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE IN BALOCHISTAN	PAM	3,000,000.00	2013 (valued)
	VIS – INTEGRATED ACTIONS TO ACCESS EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES AND SOCIAL PROMOTION IN FAVOUR OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN IN QUETTA	VIS	200,000.00	2011-2013

	RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE SWAT VALLEY- STRENGTHENING OF WOMEN'S ROLE - FARMER'S ASSOCIATIONS - CROPS FROM THE HILLS	IAO	496,758.00	2012-2013
	10190 ISCOS – SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY, TO VULNERABLE WOMEN AND WORKERS	ISCOS	650,861.48	2013
SDN	PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO GENDER VIOLENCE IN DARFUR	UNFPA	500,000.00	2013
SOM	MIDA II (MIDA WOMEN SOMALIA II)	OIM	718,389.00	2013
SYR	MULTILATERAL EMERGENCY CONTRIBUTION (UNFPA) FOR HEALTH PROGRAMS IN SYRIA IN FAVOUR OF VULNERABLE WOMEN AFFECTED BY CONFLICTS	UNFPA	1,000,000.00	2013
TOC	MEHWAR PROGRAMME – SUPPORT FAMILY CENTRE, PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ...	UNIFEM	2,016,878.40	2007-2013
	8907 CESVI – CREATION OF FEMALE MICRO-CREDIT AND SAVING CENTRES TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S ROLE IN TULKAREM	CESVI	834,135.00	2008-2013

	WELOD 2 - WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT	DGCS	530,000.00	2012-2013
	WELOD 3 - WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT	DGCS	1,600,000.00	2013
	WELOD 3 - WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT	PALESTINIAN GOV.	1,700,000.00	2013
	10126 OXFAM – FROM WATER TO MARKETS: A GREAT CHALLENGE FOR SMALL FARMERS AND WOMEN'S GROUPS WHO PRODUCE MILK ....	OXFAM ITALY	2,115,131.78	2013
	10187 CISS -EDU-PARE – EXPANSION AND OPERATION OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN.	CISS	1,589,186.19	2013
ZAR	EMERGENCY FOR IMPROVING SANITARY CONDITIONS OF PEOPLE AND ASSISTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE AREAS OF KIVU AND KINSHASA	DGDC	3,100,000.00	2010-2013

**According to the above DGCS Guidelines, UTLs are required to provide updated information on the status of the implementation of the projects, by indicating the following: 1. if gender equality among the actors and/or beneficiaries has been taken into consideration; 2. if initiatives focused on women's empowerment are planned; 3. the gender percentages; 4. if the allocation of resources will be monitored on the basis of *gender markers*, developed by OCSE/DAC.**

However, as in the previous edition of the National Plan, we acknowledge that the gender perspective should be channeled into every stage of activity relating to *peace-support operations*. This can be done through the following:

1. the inclusion of gender-sensitive surveys and statistical data to be disaggregated by gender as well as specific investigations into other discriminatory factors;
2. on-site gender-sensitive research, taking into account the needs, habits and customs of women in relation to the country where the mission is being conducted.

In this context Annex No.3 of the National Plan highlights a few good/best practices as implemented by relevant NGOs, whose role is also evident from the excerpt shown below:<sup>31</sup>

Gender equality and women's empowerment within the General Directorate for Development Cooperation was primarily developed in the later stages of the Fourth UN Conference on Women in Beijing. In effect, during that time, there was a growing interest in civil society, in regional and local institutions, as well as in universities, to identify a need for intervention in the countries of the Global South and Eastern Europe in favor of women, and, particularly, women victims of conflict. This growing attention added to the activities of the two NGOs that, since 1990, had been officially recognized - AIDOS and Vides - and to a new understanding of these issues from exchanges with women from the South, as promoted by the NGO Coordination on Women and Development, founded by a network of NGOs.

Interest grew particularly in the Nineties and was largely due to the brutal violence against women perpetrated during the wars in Rwanda and the Balkans. This led Italy and in the South of the world to value what women's associations were doing, although they were not always recognized as NGOs working in the field of development cooperation. At that time, women's associations often carried out important relevant initiatives by financing decentralized cooperation activities. The funding came from the European Union or from private sponsors, or solidarity/charity campaigns, for war-torn countries in the Balkans and the Mediterranean. A series of new cooperation stakeholders interested in gender issues have emerged from the scene. In terms of development cooperation, the latter has contributed to improve work conditions of migrant women in Italy, especially in the fight against poverty. The issue of the "fight against poverty" was crucial to Italian Official Development Assistance (ODA), as it was for other development agencies, attempting to correctly interpret analytical data and newly acquired information in the fields of environment, human rights, and gender-related issues.

(..) Studies of the UN and the World Bank showed that the marginalization of women prevented the "sustainability" of development actions. Some evaluations particularly highlighted the need to develop specific initiatives in order to empower women. As a result, an initiative was launched in 1998 by Italy, together with academia and decentralized cooperation, the "*Guidelines for the Enhancement of Women's Role and the Introduction of a Gender Perspective in Development Cooperation Policies*", with the objective of women's empowerment. These Guidelines have directed the priorities and areas of intervention of ODA in the early 2000s, heightening civil society's experience and the work of our GDDC. In terms of gender policies, even during the budget crisis of ODA (particularly in 2003), the Italian Cooperation "system" has been remarkably active, thanks to the support of decentralized cooperation and the many public and private stakeholders, in particular NGOs and women's associations that directly dialogue with women from the South of the

<sup>31</sup>

Excerpt from the Foreword of the relevant Development Cooperation Guidelines (2011-2013).

world. This has allowed the GDDC to consolidate ongoing initiatives and to go ahead with new courses of action.

- The first project focused on programs supporting women in situations of conflict (Afghanistan, Lebanon, Sudan, Somalia, and the Palestinian Autonomous Territories) and on combating violence against women, in particular, on the global campaign against FGM (Female Genital Mutilation/C).

- The second focused on the promotion of women's empowerment in local development systems, linked to bilateral cooperation plans (Palestinian Autonomous Territories, TAMKEEM program) and to national and multilateral development strategies (UNIFEM programs in Cuba and Central America MYDEL, and Meetings at the Modena and Ferrara Universities).

Source: Development Cooperation Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (2011-2013)

Against this background, with the vote of confidence by the Chamber of Deputies on the Stability Law (amendment owed to Mr. Giulio Marcon), nine million euros have been allocated for the 2014 – 2016 period, to be equally distributed per year, in support of the **"establishment of a contingent of civilian peace corps, intended for training and testing of 500 young volunteers to be engaged in peace missions, to be carried out by NGOs, in areas of conflict or at risk of conflict, as well as in areas of environmental emergency"**.

- The text of the above amendment provides for "the organization of the contingent in accordance with Article 12 of Legislative Decree No.77, dated April 5, 2002, according to which young volunteers can be deployed abroad, even for short terms, upon decree of the Prime Minister, in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In this context, the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human Rights (CIDU), as the national Focal Point for the implementation of the National Plan, intends to initiate consultations with the "Working Group on Civilian-led Peace Missions" (*Tavolo interventi civili di pace*).

### **3. Ensuring specific training on the various aspects of UNSCR 1325, in particular to personnel taking part in peace operations**

At the **international level**, Italy stands out for a number of unilateral and joint initiatives launched over the past decades in the field of human rights education, culminating in the “International Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training”, adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2011 (UN Doc. A/RES/66/137)”, the relevance of which is clear considering the cross-cutting nature of both human rights and gender equality.

Specific education in the field of international human rights law and international humanitarian law is provided to young probationary Secretaries of Legation; moreover, specific aspects, such as those linked to human trafficking, are already part of an ad hoc education module provided for consular personnel.

**Curricula offered by the training institutes of the Armed Forces, Carabinieri and the Customs and Excise Police at all levels (Academies, Warrant Officer Schools and training schools for permanent volunteers) include international humanitarian law modules aimed at providing students with adequate knowledge particularly of procedural and behavioural rules<sup>32</sup>.**

Similar modules are included in the **ISSMI (Joint Services Staff College)** and **IASD (Institute for High Defence Studies)** curricula, as well as in the **Single Service Staff Course** (or corresponding courses), the **Military Legal Advisor course** (where specific CAAC issues are addressed) and the **Civil-Military Cooperation (COCIM) course**.<sup>33</sup>

More precisely, as mentioned in the first Action Plan on UNSCR1325, **courses for military personnel at all levels and courses for those who will be taking part in international peace operations** will address the following aspects: an analysis of the Action Plan itself; the CEDAW Convention and the additional Protocol thereto; legislation in the field of equal opportunities, gender perspective and human rights, and, in particular, aspects connected to the protection of women and children.

Before being deployed in any theatre of operation, all personnel receives specific education on UNSCR1325 (2000) content and on the integration of a gender perspective in military activities. A few ad hoc teams, known as “Female Engagement Teams” (FET) have also been formed by two specialized Army Units, namely the Multinational CIMIC (Civil-Military Cooperation) Group, whose Headquarters are in Motta di Livenza, and the 28<sup>th</sup> Regiment PAVIA, located in Pesaro. These Teams are meant to establish a direct relationship with the local population. Personnel assigned to these Teams are provided with all necessary instruments, including linguistic tools, for cultural interaction and cooperation with the local female population.

---

<sup>32</sup> As for instance, the UN Charter; the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols; the applicability of the law of armed conflict to peace operations; the prohibition of the use of force and the right of self-defense under the UN Charter and international customary law; the protection of human rights, from the Universal Declaration to the suppression of international crimes; war crimes and the suppression of severe violations of Humanitarian Law; the jurisdiction of international courts, namely the competences of the International Criminal Court, etc..

<sup>33</sup> Elements of International Humanitarian Law and of the law of armed conflicts are also included in the curricula of the basic training modules. This subject, moreover, is also addressed in the context of ad hoc trainer conferences organized during the course.

The Italian Defence General Staff is showing firm commitment to training Commanders in the specific domain of gender perspective and of all Women, Peace and Security-related resolutions. At present, an Army Brigadier General (currently serving in Afghanistan), an Army Colonel, and a Carabinieri Lieutenant Colonel - serving at the COESPU in Vicenza - are attending the Commanding Officers Seminar held at SWEDINT.

As per Item 1 above, the professional position of Gender Advisor/Gender Field Advisor/Gender Focal Point was created. NATO received the candidacy of CoESPU as Centre of Excellence to provide training in the field of sexual-based violence (SGBV) to Allied countries' *gendarmerie* forces. In the future, this kind of training could increase recruitment numbers of the Police Forces to be added to the Armed Forces.

In particular, as regards Gender Advisor training, Italy is organizing the first training program directly managed by IDGS for the Armed Forces and Carabinieri Corps personnel.

Within the framework of the "Defence Communication Action Plan 2013", we have been actively engaged in an initiative aimed at disseminating a gender culture within the Armed Forces and the Carabinieri, as well as in projecting an image of a progressive Defence organization with a specific sensitivity towards gender diversity issues.

On the Italian Defence Ministry's official website, a permanent link has been created (accessible at the following address: [http://www.difesa.it/Content/Risoluzione1325\\_2000/Pagine/default.aspx](http://www.difesa.it/Content/Risoluzione1325_2000/Pagine/default.aspx)), from which all applicable legislation and information on the activities carried out by the Ministry of Defence in this specific field can be downloaded.

Italy's communication initiatives include - within the joint/single services training institutes - the establishment of mobile teaching units to disseminate knowledge on these specific issues and raise personnel awareness; the organization of meetings and conferences on UNSCR 1325 (2000); and the adoption of a gender perspective. One such meeting has already been organized and took place in the framework of the Turin International Book Fair in May 2013, while other initiatives are being developed or are underway. **Italy thus intends to organize a sector-oriented conference in view of its upcoming Presidency of the EU.**

**Likewise, the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights (CIDU), in its capacity as National Focal Point for the implementation of the Action Plan, has expressed its commitment to the activation of a roster on its website (that will be launched shortly), which will be made available to national experts and interested Ministries and bodies.**

As mentioned, the mission of the *Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units* has international relevance and impact. The CoESPU – training Centre located in Vicenza operating under the authority of the Carabinieri Force with the support of the U.S. State Department – provides specific training for police personnel mainly coming from African countries to be deployed in peacekeeping operations.

In this framework, the courses provided include the analysis of aspects relating to the respect for human rights and, in particular, protection from gender-based violence.

In 2013 alone, the following courses were provided: *Protection of Civilians*, which includes a module devoted to Sexual Gender-based Violence; *Formed Police Units Commander/Senior Staff*, including modules on International Humanitarian Law; *Police, Civil and Military Relations*, including modules on International Humanitarian Law and Child Protection (See ANNEX No.4).

The visits recently paid to Vicenza by Mari Skaare, NATO Secretary-General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security and by Zainab H. Bangura, UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, prove the importance that NATO and UN are attaching to CoESPU.

Moreover, starting in 2014, CoESPU will be providing a new course on *Gender Protection in Peace Support Operations*, based on UN Security Council resolution 1325. In the sphere of respect for human rights (in relation to UNSCR1325), NATO has been informed of CoESPU capabilities during a meeting recently held in Brussels within the framework of the NATO Operations Policy Committee.

At the national level, an important joint Directive, "*Linee guida in materia di parità di trattamento, rapporti interpersonali, tutela della famiglia e della genitorialità*" (Guidelines on Equality of Treatment, Interpersonal Relationships, the Protection of Family and Parenthood), was issued by the Ministry of Defence in 2012.

Education-related initiatives in the field of violence against women and stalking are being developed in the framework of basic (a) and advanced (b) training reserved to Carabinieri personnel:

- (a) For the basic training course, students attended a module on International Human Rights Law.
- (b) For the advanced training course, the following activities were completed:
  - *Module on Prevention and Investigation of Sexual and Gender-Related Violence*;
  - *Training and Awareness on Counter-Trafficking for Peacekeepers*;
  - Seminars (financed by the Department for Equal Opportunities) aimed at fostering standardized training among the various Police Forces in the field of preventing and combating sexual and gender-based violence (about 1,650 units);
  - Specific seminars organized at the Carabinieri Officers School in the 2012/2013 period, offered by personnel serving within the **National Racial Anti-discrimination Office (UNAR)** and the Observatory for Security against Discriminatory Acts (OSCAD) (for about 150 Cadet Officers/course);
  - Seminars for training Territorial Units personnel on harassment offences (about 5,700 units);
  - A training course, entitled: "Train the Trainer Workshop: Anti-Discrimination & Diversity and the Other Fundamental Rights Topics in Police Training";
  - several other initiatives have been undertaken in this area as, for instance, the establishment of ad hoc training programs, to be held at the Istituto Superiore di Tecniche Investigative (ISTI –

Advanced Institute of Investigation Techniques) of the Carabinieri Force. The course lasts 2 weeks and aims to enhance knowledge of Territorial Units personnel (about 100 participants for each course) in this specific field in order to identify adequate measures for preventing/punishing events related to gender-based violence (harassment, stalking, sex offences, femicide, etc.);

- the incorporation of some Officers into the ODIHR (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) group of Trainers, made up of national Police experts of OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) participating States;
- The creation of a Section dealing specifically with harassment offences at the RaCIS (Forensic science laboratories of the Carabinieri Force), resulting from an agreement between the Prime Minister's Office, the Department for Equal Opportunities, and the General Command of the Carabinieri Force. This Section is tasked with carrying out studies and in-depth research on the phenomenon and update strategies for preventing and combating all types of violent and harassing behaviours, either sexually-oriented or persecutory, perpetrated against vulnerable victims. In this context, the Carabinieri Force has organized specific training seminars for a standardized conduct of officers dealing with the victims of gender-based violence, in line with a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of the Interior and the Department for Equal Opportunities.

In the basic training and refresher courses for the State Police, more and more attention is paid to issues related to assisting victims of crime, more broadly including victims of domestic violence, stalking and abuse in the family. In addition, much attention is also focused on enhancing knowledge of International Human Rights Law and the protection of vulnerable groups, such as women and children, in the training of Police Forces to be deployed to conflict areas. In keeping with the above Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Equal Opportunities, to develop, inter alia, specific training courses and awareness-raising campaigns in the years 2011-2013, the following courses took place: a) 5 courses for trainers for 140 officials of the State Police (October-November 2011) on "Attention to Women, Victims of Crime, and to Gender-based Violence in particular "; b) this training was then offered in 184^ training courses for some 1,164 police officers - beginning in December 2011 and ending in December 2012; c) specialized courses on "Investigative Techniques in relation to those Crimes Committed either against Minors or on a Sexual Ground", which were organized in May 2012, at the Police Academy of Brescia for investigators and staff from specialized sections of the investigative units.

More specifically, domestic violence and stalking fall within programs and standard refresher courses: courses were held in 2011 on "Stalking and Crimes against the so-called Vulnerable Groups (children, women, and the elderly)"; courses were also held in 2012 on monitoring and combating discrimination against minorities and the role of OSCAD (Observatory for the Protection against Discriminatory Acts); there were further courses in 2013 on the subject of violence against women and children, and specific issues relating to the operational, legal and psychological impact of violence. In December 2013 at the School for the State Police, a first cycle of seminars was organized for 21 officers and directors of the State Police working in the above-mentioned fields.

In 2014, the Ministry of Interior envisaged the organization of additional cycles for 206 officers and directors of the State Police serving in Patrolling Units and Anti-Crime Divisions, at the 103 Police Stations located throughout the country.

In the same framework, worthy of mention is the European Daphne Programme, aimed to combat all forms of violence and abuse against women and children. Various projects have been completed by Italy's MuTAVI (Multimedia Tools Against Violence, conducted by the General Directorate of the Criminal Police Department of Public Security of the Ministry of the Interior, together with the Department of Psychology, University "La Sapienza" of Rome and the NGO, "Institute for the Mediterranean"). The purpose was to create and produce multimedia materials for training professionals, practitioners, and caregivers, such as police officers, lawyers, as well as socio-medical staff, who are responsible for first contact and support for victims of violence by their partner (Intimate Partner Violence - IPV). The ultimate goal was to raise awareness and promote prevention strategies against violence, in particular, IPV - in continuity with the European project AGIS, also called Victas, by which general strategies had been defined for Police Forces in their initial contact with victims of crime.

Since the late '90s, Italy has been transformed from a country of emigration into a country of immigration, with significant consequences in terms of reception, integration and inclusion: a journey that involved and affected various categories of immigrants, women, men and children, came not only by land or by air, but also by sea. The Customs and Excise Police (*Guardia di Finanza*) is increasingly committed to the areas affected by migration flows. The current situation has led the police to plan specific training activities, either through in-house courses or e-learning modules, for deployed staff. These educational programs have a particular focus on deepening knowledge, inter alia, of Italy's main laws currently in force on immigration control, with special reference to duties in the field of the protection of human life, and the operational methods adopted for rescue at sea. Similarly, the Regional Command of the Customs and Excise Police plan and organize seminars and in-depth courses on "International Humanitarian Law", taught by the qualified staff of the Italian Red Cross.

School	Training	Triennium under consideration	N. Teachers		N. students	
			MEN	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN
Customs and Excise Police School (Officers and Agents) (I.S.A.F)	“Operational Methodologies to Contrast Illegal Migration Flows” (e-learning)	2010/2013	6	=	1697	3
Customs and Excise Police School (Officers)	“Refresher course on Legislation regarding Irregular Migration and Support for Search and	2010/2013	2	=	24	=

	Rescue Activities					
Academy of Officers)	Military Culture: 1. <b>IHL</b>	2010/2013	5	=	296	84
Academy of Officers)	Military Culture: 2. <b>Peace Support</b>	2010/2013	1	=	27	=
Schools for Inspectors and Superintendents (Student Marshals)	Military Culture: 3. IHL	2010/2013	1	=	1170	561
Specialized Training Centre	Spec. Course "For Those to be Deployed Outside"	2010/2013	1	=	340	=

As part of the "basic training" at the educational institutions of the Customs and Excise Police (*Guardia di Finanza*), the Academy for Cadets and School for Inspectors and Superintendents), teaching modules on International Humanitarian Law have been included so that students may gain adequate knowledge of the regulatory system in force. This study program provides, under the umbrella of teaching the "military culture", in-depth courses on "International Humanitarian Law", including a specific focus on issues relating to peace support missions for knowledge of the basic tools; on recognizing the various types of conflict; determining and considering the legal aspects of international humanitarian operations; and ensuring respect for human rights.

The Customs and Excise Police provides specific training for staff to be deployed in international missions. Military personnel, either men or women, who aspire to serve in operational theaters "abroad" are selected and qualified through a training module designed to develop technical and theoretical professional skills. The training includes International Humanitarian Law modules guaranteeing students an adequate knowledge of rules of procedure and conduct, with a special focus on the content of and issues related to UNSCR1325 and UNSCR1820. Moreover, the above educational institutes all provide modules in International Humanitarian Law in their basic training. At the national level, Italy recognizes the need for sustained efforts to include in these courses offered to civilians specific courses apt to sensitize the entire staff on the content and on issues related to resolutions 1325 and 1820. These courses are an opportunity to learn how to identify all possible forms of sexual violence - not only of those committed during armed conflict - and health-related issues, such as HIV/AIDS and FGM.

In this framework, specific sector-based initiatives have been undertaken since 2010: a specific module on "HR and Women, Peace and Security", in the Master's Degree program on International Protection of Human Rights (Faculty of Political Science of Sapienza University of Rome) - in collaboration with UNICRI (2011); and the online VIS course on Gender Dimensions in Conflict-related Emergencies (since 2010).<sup>34</sup>

<sup>34</sup><http://www.onuitalia.it/notizie-maggio-2011/574-il-master-in-tutela-internazionale-dei-diritti-umani-propone-il-modulo-qdonne-pace-sicurezza-e-diritti-umaniq->

For specialized purposes, staff must be prepared for the task and be trained on gender issues and issues relating to violations of human rights of women and girls. It is also important for senior management officers. The **Department of Equal Opportunities** of the Prime Minister's Office has developed information campaigns and training modules on violence against women, with the aim of implementing the ad hoc strategy contained in the National Plan on Violence Against Women, 2010-2013.<sup>35</sup>

The Department for Equal Opportunities, convinced of the need to take action and educate primarily young people, launched in 2009 what is known as the "Week Against Violence", an initiative established by a Memorandum of Understanding between the DPO-MIUR. During that week, the schools organize awareness-raising, information and training courses on the prevention of physical and psychological violence against women as well as of violence based on all forms of discrimination. For the lessons of the Week against Violence, school principals can request support from and participation of: Carabinieri; Postal Police; State Police; and NGOs such as the ACLI, Agedo, Arcigay, ENAR, FISH, IREF, Telefono Azzurro, and Telefono Rosa.

**Similarly, specific attention is paid to refresher courses and lifelong learning for the Police and the Judiciary.<sup>36</sup> The latter, especially in recent years, through the School of the Superior Council of the Judiciary (CSM), as established on October 15, 2012, provides for specific initiatives, in the context of training weeks for magistrates.**

- During the months of June, July and September 2013, specific training courses (of 4 sessions, each) were organized on the assessment of evidence and investigation protocols for crimes against vulnerable groups, particularly in the field of stalking (with the participation of teachers, judges and special experts). This module will be repeated in the first quarter of 2014, as continuing education for judges.

The large participation of judges in the courses organized by the School of the Superior Council of the Judiciary and by decentralized institutions ensures that programs are kept abreast of the current developments (in addition to holding courses that are specifically focused on International Human Rights Law, following the evolution of judgments of the Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights).

In general, **training for specialized groups and the coordination of activities within judicial offices, particularly, the Prosecutor's Offices, are designed to make the intervention of the judiciary as qualified and efficient as possible in this sector, which has been recording a steady, relentless increase.** At the same time, the training on "vulnerable groups" allows for a continuous exchange of information and news about crimes of violence, including a tentatively standardized interpretation of rules. There is also an initiative to draft memoranda of understanding

---

[www.volint.it/vis/elearning/assistenza-umanitaria-e-processi-di-pace-la-dimensione-di-genere-nelle-emergenze-da-confli](http://www.volint.it/vis/elearning/assistenza-umanitaria-e-processi-di-pace-la-dimensione-di-genere-nelle-emergenze-da-confli)

<sup>35</sup>With regard to the Plan on Violence Against Women, as a way of example, mention has to be made of a few relevant training-related initiatives: 3a) Preparation of specific training courses for law enforcement officials, by using behavioral and organizational models as already tested on the territory (as was the case with the Prosecutor's Office of the municipality of Cosenza; the Police Headquarters in Catania and Verona) through ad hoc Protocols, namely SARA (standing for "Spousal Assault Risk Assessment"), SILVA (standing for "Stalking Victims and Risk Assessment") and EVA (standing for "Examination of Violent Acts). 3b) Awareness-raising campaigns for the entire judiciary for better training in this field (Department of Equal Opportunities and the Ministry of Justice). 3c) Awareness-raising for the above-mentioned Stalking Unit, as laid down in the MoU signed by the General Command of the Carabinieri Corps and the Department for Equal Opportunities."

<sup>36</sup>With regard to the Plan on Violence Against Women, as approved by the State-Regions Conference on October 28, 2010, mention has to be made of a specific initiative following the ad hoc agreement between the Carabinieri Corps and Department for Equal Opportunities, with which a training course on the crime of stalking was launched, carried out by the Stalking Unit of the Scientific Investigation Group.

or interaction, to improve links between all judicial bodies and care facilities (e.g. social services, non-governmental organizations, care centers), including anti-violence centers and hospitals.

The signing of MoUs – albeit within the limited scope of this kind of agreement – is of great relevance, precisely for the training of all operators as they provide an important opportunity for a discussion on key issues relating to the fight against gender-based violence, and for the analysis of concrete solutions to combat this phenomenon. The commitment is to promote information, research and training on gender-based violence in all of its forms and provide emergency healthcare assistance for women and girls who are victims of violence, harassment and/or stalking.

One of the most significant innovations brought by MoUs is the participation of healthcare facilities whose operators often have direct contact with the victim in the immediacy of the criminal act of violence.

At **the organizational level**, the position of the Magistrate Coordinator at the Prosecutor's Office has been created for the consideration of urgent issues relating to the "more vulnerable group of victims". The number of judges specialized in relevant crimes has also been increased; while periodic meetings are held to ensure a fruitful exchange of information, creating a more uniform response to complex problems that are not just of a legal nature, but are intrinsically tied to this type of crime. Constant contact with other equally competent judicial offices has also been established, in particular, with the Prosecutor, the Juvenile Court and the Ordinary Court. Equally important is the consistent and effective cooperation with the National Bar Association and the Bar Association of each Court district - which, in some cases, has led to holding relevant meetings with a large participation of lawyers and judges.

The growing attention to this issue is also confirmed by the significant increase, recorded in 2012, in the request for precautionary measures (with a total of 30%) for the crimes of domestic violence (Art. 572 of the Criminal Code), sexual violence (Article 609 bis of the Criminal Code) and stalking (Article 612 bis).

- Against 2012 figures, requests in 2013 increased by 10%.

The seriousness of the violence committed (almost exclusively) to the detriment of women and children must also be taken into consideration: more and more frequently, the severity of the facts and the dangers of perpetrators of violence require the adoption of stricter precautionary measures, such as preventive detention. (A concrete sign of a greater attention to these crimes and the higher qualifications of the relevant personnel, including the police force, is that there is a significant increase in arrests in flagrante delicto. The intervention of law enforcement in the immediacy of a criminal act, or soon after, ending in the arrest of the perpetrator with a timely notification of the Prosecutor, certainly indicates greater awareness of these crimes. Between 2011-2012, arrests in flagrante delicto saw an increase in certain areas of about 40%).

To translate into practice the principles of the Lanzarote and Istanbul Conventions, pursuant to Act No.172/2012, some Italian attorneys have recently added to their offices a "protected audition room", which allows them to listen to women and children and, in general, the victims of violence in a more appropriate setting, requesting the set up of a video-recording system and a one-way mirror glass (also reserved for hearings of victims of violence through video-conferencing if their testimony is necessary in a trial without imposing they be present in the room).

In order to provide a timely and correct implementation of the new legislative changes introduced by Act No.172/12 with regards to protected listening modes during interrogations, the Prosecutors' offices have also given clear guidance to the judicial police on how to collect information. In some offices, we have set up daily shifts of expert consultants, available 24 hours, to ensure immediate assistance to the police in gathering information from the victim if and when an urgent investigation so requires. For this service to be as efficient and timely as possible, the intervention of specialized judiciary from larger districts has been assured, with constant and timely contact, even for purely advisory purposes, between the judicial police and the Coordinator of the pool of specialized prosecutors.

For better and more relevant policies (and thus better action) in this field, on the 17 December, a bill was passed on the initiative **of the CNEL**, entitled "Provisions Relating to Statistics and Gender Policies". Bill No. 1165, approved by the CNEL on October 29, 2013 (available on [www.cnel.it/Documents/Bills](http://www.cnel.it/Documents/Bills)), was submitted to the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the Senate, on February 5, 2014.

- In the report attached to this bill, the rationale behind it was given. The aim was to create a sort of "virtuous cycle" between social and gender statistics, and to ensure an overall improvement of statistical information and cohesion of relevant policies. To complement these objectives, the CNEL, with its own legislative initiative, as well as through awareness-raising initiatives, endeavored to improve the processing of periodic reports on the labor market and the development of the contents of their databases in line with the Gender Impact Assessment method.
- This bill is divided into six articles, identifying a few macro-areas (training; use of new technologies; social and political participation; work/life balance; support networks; the presence of women and men in decision-making processes; health and lifestyles; fertility and birth rates; crime; violence; poverty and income; living conditions of immigrants and immigrants by country of origin), in which - in addition to the indicators already laid down by the EU - ISTAT and SISTAN should carry out gender-based social and economic surveys.

This measure is part of a broader strategy stemming from a renewed sensitivity toward gender statistics and from a greater awareness of their role in the definition of cohesion policies at the European level.<sup>37</sup>

---

<sup>37</sup> This is the result of long standing CNEL work. The report supplementing the bill highlights the gap between the awareness of women's role in the economic, social and cultural sectors of society and society's resistance in accepting this fact. Resistance is expressed in the starkest of terms when considering forms of moral and physical violence, as well as extreme events that give rise to an increasing number of "femicides". In addition, it emphasizes that "despite the obvious growth of the role of women in Italian society, we have not yet removed some objective conditions of discrimination that hamper real gender equality, both in terms of professional recognition and full insertion in the production process." The need to devote special attention to gender statistics is thus confirmed in the observation of both the characteristics of our labor market and the phenomenon of violence against women. The latter phenomenon requires to be effectively countered, and thus we should not limit our work to giving a specific definition to these new types of criminal offenses, but also, and perhaps above all, analyze the complex social phenomena that are at the basis of violence. On these grounds, social awareness has greatly increased, and not only in Italy.



#### **4. The protection of human rights of women, children and the most vulnerable groups fleeing from conflict areas and/or living in post conflict zones**

Together with these development aid activities addressing emergency-related situations, we have included a number of initiatives aimed at providing assistance to the victims of gender-based violence.

These programs, mainly carried out by international agencies, such as IOM and UNFPA, are held in MENA countries (in Lebanon for Syrian refugees, and in Libya and the Palestinian Autonomous Territories) and in Sub-Saharan Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo, North Kivu and Sudan-Darfur), entailing a financial commitment of more than 3.5 million euros. Moreover, within the framework of the G8 Declaration of April 2013, to heed the call to mobilize further funding in support of victims of rape, we decided to contribute with funds allocated through Act No. 180/92. Our funding was further increased by means of a voluntary contribution by the Italian Development Cooperation in favour of the “UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women”, to assist the victims of sexual violence in conflict areas in MENA countries (150,000 euros) and in Sub-Saharan Africa (350,000 euros).

In terms of **best practices**, and owing to cooperation with women’s associations and local authorities, worthy of mention is the support provided to the Palestinian Center set up in Bethlehem for the purpose of providing all-around support to women victims of violence.

As we observe the phenomenon closely, sexual violence in conflict situations has increased in scale and brutality in the awareness that it does not affect women and girls only, but it also concerns men and boys (e.g., the situation of detainees - victims of violence - in conflict situations).

In addition to the psychological and physical trauma suffered by survivors, at the local level sexual violence worsens ethnic, sectarian and other types of divisions causing instability and jeopardizing the efforts made for stabilization and peace-building. At the international level, it is a concrete concern requiring specific measures designed to increase access to justice and the social and healthcare systems, and which can be particularly applied to the conditions of female asylum seekers.

At the international level, the April 2013 G8 Declaration – whose content was recalled in the two UN resolutions adopted in June - October 2013 and during the Ministerial Week of the UN General Assembly - underlines that States, mainly G8 Member States, have an obligation to prosecute or hand over for trial any individual alleged to have committed this kind of offences, regardless of their nationality. In that same context, G8 Ministers agreed that peace negotiations, ceasefire agreements and peace building efforts should include the participation of women.

Preventing sexual violence in conflict situations and providing an effective framework for human rights protection are of fundamental importance in the wider context of peace and security, which, in order to be ensured, requires that women be seen as agents of change – and not only as victims or survivors of acts of violence.

The Italian Parliament is currently working on a few legislative measures aimed at implementing the Criminal Code for Military Operations abroad. On the one hand, these measures

will provide a clear and solid legal framework to be applied to Armed Forces personnel deployed in operations abroad; on the other, it adjusts our laws to International Humanitarian Law standards and to the International Criminal Court Statute. It also represents a first step towards a wider review of both Peacetime Military Criminal Code and Wartime Military Criminal Code.

During the operation, “Enduring Freedom” (carried out pursuant to Law Decree No. 421/2001), and subsequent military operations abroad up to mid-2006, the Wartime Military Criminal Code was used due to the lack of specific legislation on the matter.

As of 2006 – with the passing of Act No. 247 of 4 August 2006 – it was decided that the Peacetime Military Criminal Code would be applied in military operations abroad. Since then, all Decrees extending military operations have provided the necessary funding and specified the legislative framework of reference.

Relevant regulations were already included in the Wartime Military Criminal Code but some significant changes, in terms of content and penalties, have been introduced to meet the requirements of military forces in maintaining peace and security in military operations abroad.

The Criminal Code on Military Operations abroad will make it possible, among other things, to:

- a.** fill the currently existing gap in Italian Law concerning model fact situations of these crimes or add to or amend those already existing. For instance, in the case of sexual harassment and violence against women, Art.7 and Art.8 of the Rome Statute – as ratified by Italy with Act No. 232/1999 could be specifically referred to.
- b.** streamline legislation and incorporate all related provisions into a single text;
- c.** re-determine the attribution of jurisdictions between military and civilian courts;
- d.** overcome the peace vs. war logic, characterizing parliamentary debate during the review to extend the mandate of our military forces deployed abroad, taking into account that Italy’s commitment in this field aims to pursue peace, security and the rule of law at the international level (the same objectives pursued by the UN, NATO, the European Union and the other international organizations Italy belongs to, in keeping with international law and constitutional principles);
- e.** fully protect the “vulnerable groups” affected by military operations (the ill, injured, civilians, prisoners or people detained for any reason), the personnel involved in operations, and guarantee equal treatment and full respect of human rights and international humanitarian law;
- f.** introduce harsher punishment in the case of offences already provided for in the Italian Criminal Code (Heading III, Section II), such as: Article 609 bis and following – Sexual Violence; Article 609 octies – Gang Rape; and include other types of offences, such as forced pregnancy; forced sterilization; criminal liability for the most serious offences, including those due to negligence; imprescriptibility of offences.

As recalled in the previous edition of the National Action Plan, the analysis should be limited to objective data, based on the definition of violence against women as abuse of power and control, expressed through physical, sexual, psychological and economic exploitation.

Among the physical and psychological effects produced by sexual violence, the WHO lists temporary and permanent disabilities, unwanted pregnancies, voluntary terminations of pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), urogenital disorders, infertility, rape trauma syndrome (RTS), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), gastro-enteric diseases, cardio-vascular diseases, asthma, depression, phobias, anxiety, psychoactive substance abuse, eating disorders, and self-injurious behaviour. Moreover, the perception of the severity of the sexually criminal act, regardless of the physical violence used by the aggressor, does not diminish with the passing of time.

Violence against women may therefore be considered a public health issue, which must involve specialized workers to prevent the phenomenon and treat its physical and psychological consequences. This is all the more relevant when considering that, according to the most recent UNHCR data, half of the world's refugees (49% approximately), is made up of adult and young women - often the victims of violence.

Italy has been dealing with some of these issues, also in their connection to conflict. **At the national level, Italy has pledged to adopt the newly drafted Code for Military Operations Abroad**, and has promptly ratified the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, with Act No. 77 of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013. While waiting for the entry into force of said Convention – which will become effective with the ratification of at least ten countries, eight of which members of the Council of Europe – and in line with the content of the same Law Decree No. 93/2013, converted with amendments by Law No.119 of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013, Italy has introduced regulatory measures aimed at preventing and combating gender-based violence. Our regulatory action follows two tracks: one that is fundamental for protection and prevention – through regulations that will strengthen existing legal instruments – and the other that focuses on punishment and updating the provisions of the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure in force, in keeping with the content of the Convention.

In compliance with Article 59 of the Istanbul Convention, a provision of significant value was introduced in the Consolidation Act on Immigration (Legislative Decree No. 286 of 25<sup>th</sup> July 1998). This is a new Article aimed at regulating the granting of stay permits to foreigners victims of domestic violence regardless of cooperation with the judicial authorities, in consideration of the severe vulnerability in which the victim finds herself.

In terms of measures adopted in favour of victims of sexual violence, offences such as, domestic violence against family members, stalking, or female genital mutilation (FGM), have been included among the offences for which the victim is entitled to free legal assistance, regardless of income thresholds - as it is already the case with sexual violence. The ultimate objective is to fully implement Article 57 of the Istanbul Convention requiring the Signatory Countries to grant the victims of domestic violence the right to free legal assistance.

Repressive measures, however appropriate, are insufficient to tackle the phenomenon of violence against women. Mechanisms in place for preventing these crimes or limiting their consequences must be strengthened. Awareness-raising and prevention are fundamental to combating violence against women. For these reasons, the above measure also includes a provision on the adoption of an “Extraordinary National Action Plan against Sexual and Gender-based Violence”.

This Extraordinary Action Plan, to be developed during the European Union's new 2014-2020 programming period, will pursue the following goals:

4. Preventing violence against women through information and awareness-raising for the public - men and youths, in particular – sensitizing them to eradicating violence against women and resolving interpersonal conflicts;
5. Raising awareness of media-sector professionals, with a view to developing a communication and information campaign, including advertisements, representing gender and, in particular, women - also through the adoption of a self-regulatory code by said professionals;
6. Promoting adequate training for school faculties on the topics of interpersonal relations and combating gender-based violence and discrimination; promoting national standardized guidelines in pre-school and elementary school curricula, as well as in high-schools, technical and vocational schools; extracurricular educational programming of all types and for all school levels, promoting awareness-raising and student training on preventing violence against women and gender-based discrimination, also by adequately developing this theme in textbooks;
7. Increasing forms of assistance and support in favour of women victims of violence and their children, through a general strengthening of the network of local services, women's shelters and services providing assistance to women victims of violence;
8. Ensuring the proper training of all professionals dealing with gender-based violence or stalking;
9. Heightening the level of protection of the victims by increasing cooperation among all the institutions involved;
10. Promoting action, throughout the national territory, based on methodologies, both proven and consistent with the guidelines developed for this purpose, for the rehabilitation and tutoring of the perpetrators of acts of violence in their affective relationships - with the ultimate goal of rehabilitating them and reducing the occurrence of recidivism;
11. Providing for a structured and periodically updated collection of data on a yearly basis, including a survey of the number of women's shelters, also by coordinating existing databases;
12. Proposing specific positive actions – inclusive of the responsibilities of the administrations involved in preventing and combating violence and in supporting the victims of gender-based violence and stalking, and the experiences gained by associations providing assistance in this sector;
13. Defining a structured governance system that involves every governmental level, also based on the various experiences and good practices already acquired in the local networks and on the field.

At the **administrative level**, an inter-governmental Task Force was established, grouping all the relevant ministries (Justice, Interior, Health, Education, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Economy and Finance, Labour) and representatives of local bodies which, through the contribution of thematic sub-working groups, are working to advance concrete and effective proposals, and make available standardized data on violence against women.

To this end, as of 2006, ISTAT (the Italian National Statistics Institute) has carried out an analysis of the various forms of gender-based violence and their impact on women in Italy; the second edition of this analysis will also provide estimates as to violence affecting foreign women.

**Another issue included in this sector is human trafficking.** With reference to this specific theme, a draft Legislative Decree enacting the 2011/36/EU Directive of 5 April 2011 was proposed on preventing and combating human trafficking and on the protection of the victims (which replaces Council Framework Decision 2002/629/GAI). The enactment of said European Directive will represent a useful opportunity to improve the regulatory framework in force. The draft Legislative Decree is currently being evaluated by the relevant Parliamentary Commissions.

**At the local level,** particularly important is the SPRAR (Sistema di Protezione per Richiedenti Asilo e Rifugiati), a system for protecting asylum-seekers and refugees, through which national Authorities (Ministry of the Interior and ANCI - the national association of Italian municipalities), local bodies (Regional, Municipal and Provincial authorities), and Associations, have for years been carrying out integrated reception projects for men, women and minors fleeing countries ravaged by war and persecution. Despite the limited recourse of women to SPRAR services (according to 2012 data only 23% of the services were used by women - while 77% of the same services were used by men), the majority of requests, amounting to 28% of the total, concern health-related services.

With reference to the more general topic of the reception and integration of immigrant women, the priorities of the Department for Equal Opportunities continue to include actions aimed at preventing and combating harmful traditional practices, such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), which still today represents a serious violation of women's and girls' rights, and one of the main obstacles to gender equality. The Department for Equal Opportunities, as the central authority responsible for promoting and coordinating Government actions in the field of preventing and combating violence, and assisting the victims of female genital mutilation practices (Articles 2 and 3 of Act No.7 of 2006), is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the activities conducted by Regional and Local Administrations. This is in compliance with the Policy Plan for the national action priorities in the related "*Agreement on the criteria for the allocation of resources, on the goals and implementation measures, as well as on the monitoring of the system of actions to be developed for preventing and combating the phenomenon of Female Genital Mutilation as per Law no. 7 of 2006*", passed on 6 December 2012 by the State-Regions Conference.

To enforce said agreement at the regional level, experimental measures will have to be adopted to prevent forms of FGM involving women and children, and to favour their social integration through initiatives and providing victims with support and guidance. In addition, specific training courses will be necessary for those working in this field, along with gender-related information and awareness-raising activities.

Building on said actions will play a part in bringing about the socio-cultural change necessary for such practices to be discontinued, as will the organization of new initiatives, both experimental and system-based, promoting the appropriate training of sector workers and all players who, with various responsibilities, are involved in providing reception and assistance to immigrants.<sup>38</sup>

The Ministry of Health, has also played a part in defining the guidelines "*Salute globale: principi guida della Cooperazione italiana*" (Global Health: the Guiding Principles of Italian Cooperation), offering guidelines also on emergency management. The Ministry has accredited a series of training events for sector workers and has actively participated in the Inter-regional

---

<sup>38</sup> In terms of regulations, Law Decree No. 93 of 2013 included the offence, as per Article 583-bis of the Italian Criminal Code (Female genital mutilation practices), among those for which the victim is entitled to free legal aid, also regardless of income thresholds (Article 2, Paragraph 4).

Technical Body on the topic of “Immigrants and Health Services”, responsible for drafting the document recently approved by the State-Regions Conference. This document provides guidelines of the Regional and Autonomous Provincial Authorities for the proper enforcement of regulations on health-care services for foreigners, with the aim of granting uniform access to these services, focusing, in particular, on illegal minor immigrants who are mandatorily registered with the National Health Service.

The Government also offers a Service for the Health and Protection of Women, provided by the National Institute for promoting the health of migrants and for combating poverty-related disease (NIHMP – National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty-related Diseases). In its day-to-day activities, the Service often caters to women applying, of their own free will, for international protection, referred by reception centers, or sent by other women.

The Service includes actions, such as evaluating psychological condition and resources; preparation for examination by the Commission, if any; or – with appropriate legal counsel – appealing to the Civil Court in case of a negative judgment; anxiety management while waiting for the final decision; practical and emotional planning of one’s future; working through difficult issues and events, linked to the violence the victim experienced.<sup>39</sup>

There is also what is known as the CCM project, entitled “*Linee d’intervento transculturali nell’assistenza di base e nel materno infantile*”, focusing on transcultural action guidelines for the provision of basic assistance and child and maternal healthcare. This project has the general purpose of improving access and use of health and socio-medical services for foreigners. Units responsible for implementing the project with the local health Authorities are established according to an organizational model that makes it possible to coordinate actions across sectors through both internal services and outsourcing in the following contexts: basic healthcare, prevention, mother-child care; and integrated basic local and hospital healthcare.

The specific goals of the project are:

- the implementation of multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural training: to improve the skills of socio-healthcare workers in navigating the procedures to access services for migrants; strengthening communication and relations between healthcare professionals, and between the professionals and migrants; increasing the effectiveness of the “care relationship”; improving integration among the various professionals, and networking;
- the simplification of service access by setting up global fast track assistance for immigrants, based on the principle of fairness;
- improving basic healthcare services for immigrants, providing assistance through Guidance and Information Centres and intervention in local networks, to increase recourse to healthcare and socio-medical services;
  - the development of specific strategies for promoting healthcare for immigrant women and their children in the following areas: voluntary termination of pregnancy, contraception, pregnancy, birth, post-partum period, integrated medical and social services in a network of local health associations, bodies and authorities.

---

<sup>39</sup> In this context, noteworthy is the extremely sensitive role local commissions play, availing themselves of sector Documents and Materials, in particular, the “Manuale giuridico per l’operatore: la tutela dei richiedenti asilo” (Legal handbook for workers: the protection of asylum seekers), drafted by the Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, SPRAR and ASGI, and, among others, the UNHCR Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women. See also: <http://www.serviziocentrale.it/file/server/file/Manuale%20giuridico%20-%20con%20copertina.pdf>

It is clear that the wounds suffered during war imply other costs as well, as they have an impact on the opportunities enjoyed by women and young girls, especially in the field of education, employment, and in terms of their full participation in social life. Their ability to overcome violence, discrimination and injustice also depends on their state of health, which is why projects on women's reproductive health are necessary, in the awareness that the improvement of women's health and well-being has an impact on other areas, including gender equality.

Young girls and boys are the first victims of the consequences of an armed conflict. A series of projects for youths developed in Afghanistan are examples of good practices. These projects were implemented by teams exclusively made up of women, with the purpose of increasing the involvement of the local female population in a number of activities, which were resumed after the warfare.

The staff of the Armed Forces developed forms of cooperation, particularly through CIMIC projects, involving female staff deployed locally. We believe that even better results may be achieved by increasing the involvement of women in defining security measures in all of the stages of post-conflict operations (for instance prevention and support in camp management).

**Further cooperative relations with Organizations operating in conflict areas are necessary to assist and support women who have been abused or traumatized during war** – in the attempt to broaden services to reproductive health and family planning.

Similarly, the NIHMP is currently working on a bilateral health cooperation project, **“Supporting Djiboutian Women's Health Programmes”**, aimed at protecting women and children's health and at promoting the abandonment of female genital mutilation (FGM) under a series of general reforms on the issue approved by the local government. This three-year project was launched in 2012 and is financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support Djibouti government policies and actions in the field of reproductive and mother-child healthcare. More specifically, the NIHMP is committed to improving the professional competencies of state healthcare personnel regarding reproductive and mother-child health and the fight against FGM by cooperating with the Djiboutian Ministry of Health and other institutional actors to create programs offering training, information, education, communication and research activities in the social and healthcare domain. Thanks to the active partnership with local stakeholders, the “Supporting Djiboutian Women's Health Programmes” project is an example of respect for the principles of ownership and accountability that are crucial for cooperation.

## **5. Strengthening the role of women in peace processes and in all decision-making processes**

UNSCR1325 and UNSCR1820 acknowledge the importance of active and effective participation of women in decision-making processes at all levels (OP2), as well as the role of the Peace-Building Commission, which especially enables consultation and true participation of women's associations (OP11 and OP12). Many innovations have stemmed from the recent UNSCR 2106 and UNSCR 2122, as well as from the latest developments within the G8.

The London Summit of April 2013 brought greater international awareness of the need for women's effective participation, both formal and informal, in peace processes, as well as of the importance of comprising the perspectives and needs of both men and women in them. Promoting and supporting the active participation of women in all peace processes, and their representation in all decision-making processes at every stage, level, be they formal or informal, is indeed crucial for peace and security. Moreover, the commitment and involvement of women in the early stages of peace-making can facilitate gender analysis in post-conflict planning.

While focusing on rendering operational obligations from previous dedicated resolutions, UNSCR2106 refers to a team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA), which are both strongly supported by Italy, as recalled during the latest UN debate in this specific sector (18 October 2013). On the same occasion, Italy welcomed the adoption of UNSCR2122, which reaffirms the fundamental role of women in all peace processes.

The two latest UN Security Council resolutions, and particularly UNSCR 2122, go beyond the connotation of women as mere victims, giving them their rightful active role that is essential for a successful and lasting peace: they are not just victims and individuals to protect, but women who can now assert themselves as protagonists and "agents of change" within their own communities, as voters, candidates and elected representatives in politics and in socio-political reconstruction, in *institutional reform/institution building* processes, in public administration and new institutions, in the military, in law-enforcement agencies and the judiciary. During the debate, Italy also supported the Secretary-General's requests, demanding:

1. that 15% of funds for peace-building activities be destined to gender equality, for capacity-building and, in particular, for the financial security of women;
2. an increased presence of women having crucial roles in mediation and peace missions in general.

Together with the EU, Italy has welcomed the recent definition of gender equality provided by the Tunisian Constitution, as well as the practices developed during political elections by a few NGOs mainly in Africa, such as what are known as "election situation rooms" (adopted by the Senegalese NGO, *Femmes Africa Solidarité*).

**The National Action Plan confirms Italy's full support for the above guidelines – which may be seen as a completion of the operational framework established by UNSCR 1325 - and represent a further commitment to put this course of action into effect, also in view of future meetings with civil society, in the context of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.** It will be an opportunity to reflect on the political and pragmatic aspects of our work, while never losing sight of the fundamental role of associations in the field.

Sustained by its cooperation projects (See Item 2) and the specific support guaranteed by the UN Peace-Building Fund, Italy is committed to increasing the presence of women in reconstruction programmes - particularly in the areas of justice and financial empowerment - where women are often disadvantaged in terms of competitiveness (e.g. access to micro-credit). Although cultural changes will need to take place, this is definitely a concrete step forward.

**Nationally**, top level positions are not fully accessible to women - also due to the difficulty of reconciling family and work. In this regard, the reform of Art. 51 of the Italian Constitution has proved crucial, as it introduced the latest provisions to increase the number of women on company boards of directors. These provisions, however, need to be supported by more effective and broad-ranging measures for implementation.

Similarly, there is no doubt that Italy's recent general elections (February 2013) confirm a positive trend, with a presence of women and young candidates totalling 31% of elected members in Parliament, which is an absolute novelty. Yet, this result, which was consolidated by the European elections (May 2014), requires a strengthening of national institutions and structures, at both the central and local administrative levels, in compliance with what can accordingly be understood from recent resolutions and initiatives strongly supported by Italy and the EU on "*Women and Political Participation*" (resolution adopted unanimously during the 66<sup>th</sup> session of UNGA (2011) , "*The Power of Empowered Women*" (cross-regional seminar held in Geneva on the occasion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council), and the *New Equal Partnership* (initiative launched by the United States in September 2013).

The limited presence of women in the Armed Forces and in the Carabinieri Corps, especially in the highest ranks, is due to the fact that women's access to this sector began only 13-14 years ago. This trend will change in the future, considering that encouraging and facilitating the recruitment of women in the Armed Forces has become a national priority - as has long been the case in any other public or private work environment.

It goes without saying that the same provisions are applied indiscriminately to both female and male personnel. In fact, women have access to the various ranks, qualifications and specializations as do their male counterparts, with neither distinctions nor preclusions. In the Armed Forces, for example, in announcements for recruitment competition, the only distinction regards the minimum performance requirements, which are lower for women in the physical efficiency tests. It is thus crucial to implement adequate training programs in order to encourage highly qualified participation in international teams. In this context, Italy commits to developing these specific initiatives:

- organizing a Gender Advisor Course at the Centre for Higher Defence Studies (CASD);
- providing for certification from the SWEDINT by Italian military personnel to be employed as Advisors to Commanders on gender issues;
- training civilian and military personnel through "A Comprehensive Approach to Gender in Operations" courses organized by Spain and the Netherlands.

Training on gender violence is also provided by the COESPU of Vicenza.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the National Action Plan, and in its commitment to providing information and training, will also be circulating, throughout its departments, the EU Document on Mediation (Annex No. 5), specifically focusing on women's participation.

## **6. The Contribution of Civil Society to the enforcement of UNSCR1325**

The re-established CIDU (Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human Rights) operating as the National Focal Point for the National Action Plan intends to strengthen cooperation with civil society, in particular with relevant NGOs. A few of the projects and best practices acquired on the field with civil society is reported herewith (See Annex No.3).

To bolster civil society's action, which focuses considerably on the territorial dimension – on guaranteeing opportunities to women to express their views and apply their abilities to the economy, environmental protection, decision-making processes and, in general, within national structures and institutions. A Roster of Experts has thus been opened on the CIDU website, available to administrations concerned - and involved in the UNSCR1325 Action Plan -, allowing users to directly access expertise in gender issues, especially on Women, Peace and Security.

Similarly, when assessing the impact of conflicts and actual job opportunities for women in territories where peace-building operations are underway, we welcome further contributions of NGOs to gathering and analyzing gender disaggregated data.

The Italian Authorities commit to strengthening dialogue with sector NGOs – as per the recommendations of the thematic working group on gender policies created in 2006<sup>40</sup> - through periodic consultations and specific initiatives under the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (July-December 2014). Consultations and initiatives should be promoted also in view of the High-Level Review of UNSCR 1325 (2015), which will take place almost concomitantly with the definition of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Beijing +20 Review.

Regular consultations will also be scheduled between the General Directorate for Development Cooperation and the National Focal Point of the CIDU.

---

<sup>40</sup> *Documento del Gruppo Politiche di Genere degli Stati Generali della Solidarietà e Cooperazione Internazionale*, Rome, November 2007.

## **7. Monitoring activities and follow-up on operations**

Italy's Department of Defence, Cooperation and Diplomacy have made significant efforts in favor of "Women, Peace and Security", but the cross-cutting nature and implications of these issues in national matters draws the increasing commitment of other administrative bodies as well.

In keeping with the relevant UNSC resolutions, the specific recommendations contained in the UN Secretary-General's yearly reports– the latest of which is UN Doc.S/2013/525 –, and the initiatives and other international, regional and supranational documents (i.e. the monitoring reports on the implementation of the EU Comprehensive Approach, and CEDAW General Recommendation N°30), Italy **commits to**:

### **At the International level**

1. placing specific focus on "Women, Peace and Security" in the relevant areas, through its Embassies (Libya, Iraq, Lebanon, Kenya, etc.), Missions, and Offices, as well as during significant bilateral and multilateral meetings. To this end, the National Action Plan will be distributed to all Embassies, along with the EU Document on Mediation (Annex No. 5), with a request to provide current data on the subject (particularly specific information related to Annex 1):

- through this approach, we aim to ensure more effective and efficient action and, at the same time, facilitate: potential coordination areas, the collection of current data regarding the "Women, Peace and Security" Agenda (the so-called 3Ps), including awareness-raising exercises for the personnel.

2. raising the issue of the "Women, Peace and Security" Agenda during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council, and including reports on sector developments to the UN CEDAW Committee.

3. contributing to Funds/Programmes supporting women's participation and initiatives combating violence against women<sup>41</sup>, also in the context of the Peace-Building Fund.

Italy confirms its commitment to protecting the human rights of women and young girls in the context of foreign policy efforts, particularly, in international cooperation, so they may participate in, benefit from and contribute to economic and social development on an equal footing with men and young boys. The National Action Plan shows significant efforts to ensure better and stronger integration of gender-related issues. Building on these efforts, Italy **commits to**:

### **At the National level**

4. strengthening the role of the CIDU as the National Focal Point by way of the following:

---

<sup>41</sup> See UNSCR1325-OP 10, 11; UNSCR1820-OP 3, 4, 5, 7, 10; UNSCR1889- OP3, 12; UNSCR 2106; UNSCR2122.

- 4.1. The CIDU shall monitor the activities specified in this Action Plan, in consultation with civil society.
  - 4.2. An outline of potential indicators has been given (Annex No. 1) and will be further integrated by the updated report of 2015.
  - 4.3. The Committee shall promote regular meetings (at least twice a year) of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on the Implementation of UNSCR1325, with involved institutions, relevant NGOs, and academia, as a specific forum for regular consultations and exchanges of information concerning implementation efforts conducted at various levels. In the context of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, some meetings will have a supranational character;
  - 4.4. The Committee shall also distribute the National Action Plan to the Parliament, the relevant assemblies, such as the Special Committee for Human Rights of the Senate, the Foreign Affairs Committees, the Committee for Human Rights of the House of Representatives and the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to guarantee its visibility systemically and methodically. The Action Plan will also be enclosed in the yearly report to Parliament and published on the websites of active administrative bodies.
5. Considering the specific expertise of sector NGOs, a Roster will be designed and made available to experts on the subject of Women, Peace and Security, and may be used by interested administrative bodies for training purposes.
6. The CIDU commits to establishing specific relations with international organizations especially operating in Italy, which, on the basis of their functions and mandate (UNHCR), deal with the issue of female asylum seekers/female refugees, also within the framework of SPRAR - the System for the Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

Other engagements will be defined also in view of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (July-December 2014) and adequately detailed in the review report to be produced by the first year following the adoption of the National Action Plan (by 2015).

**ANNEX No. 1: Table of Relevant Indicators (for Administrations).**

**ANNEX No. 2: List of experts and sector NGOs that participated in the consultation process and provided useful information for the preparation of the National Action Plan.**

**ANNEX No. 3: Examples of projects (good/best practices) that have been developed, also with the support of the General Directorate for Development Cooperation, by different groups of NGOs working in areas of conflict, post-conflict and fragile countries.**

**ANNEX No. 4: Examples of training modules.**

**ANNEX No. 5: EU Concept on Strengthening Mediation and Dialogue Capacities**

**ANNEX No.1 - Table of Indicators - Italian Indicators in line with EU-Indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 & 1820 on Women, Peace and Security****Introduction**

In line with the commitments made by Italy and the EU to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), a table of relevant indicators is shown below, reflecting – in its re-adaptation to national needs - the "*EU Indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of UNSCR1325*". With regard to the above Indicators, we hope to provide an initial collection of information by the end of December 2014.

The Authorities directly involved are: Offices, Embassies, Permanent Missions, Delegations and Local Technical Units of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs operating in conflict and post-conflict areas, or covering, as part of their bi/multilateral activities, issues related to "Women, Peace and Security".

Also participating in this exercise are: the Armed Forces; the Carabinieri Corps; the Ministry of Interior; the Customs and Excise Police; and ISTAT.

**Methodology**

The EU Council adopted the text of the "*Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security (Comprehensive Approach) on 8 December 2008,*" which underlines a specific *commitment* to providing indicators – along the lines of indicators stemming from the Beijing + 15 Review Conference (2008). The main goal of these Indicators is to assess any development in the protection and empowerment of women living or coming from conflict or post-conflict areas.

**Indicator 1: Number of partner countries with whom Italy is engaged in supporting actions promoting women, peace and security and/or the development and implementation of National Action Plans or other national policies implementing UNSC resolutions on women, peace and security**

<b>Positive Developments</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	

**Indicator 2: Modalities and tools, including financing instruments that Italy has used to support women, peace and security in its partner countries**

<b>Positive Developments</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	

**Indicator 3: Number of regional level dialogues that focus attention on women, peace and security in outcome documents, conclusions and targets**

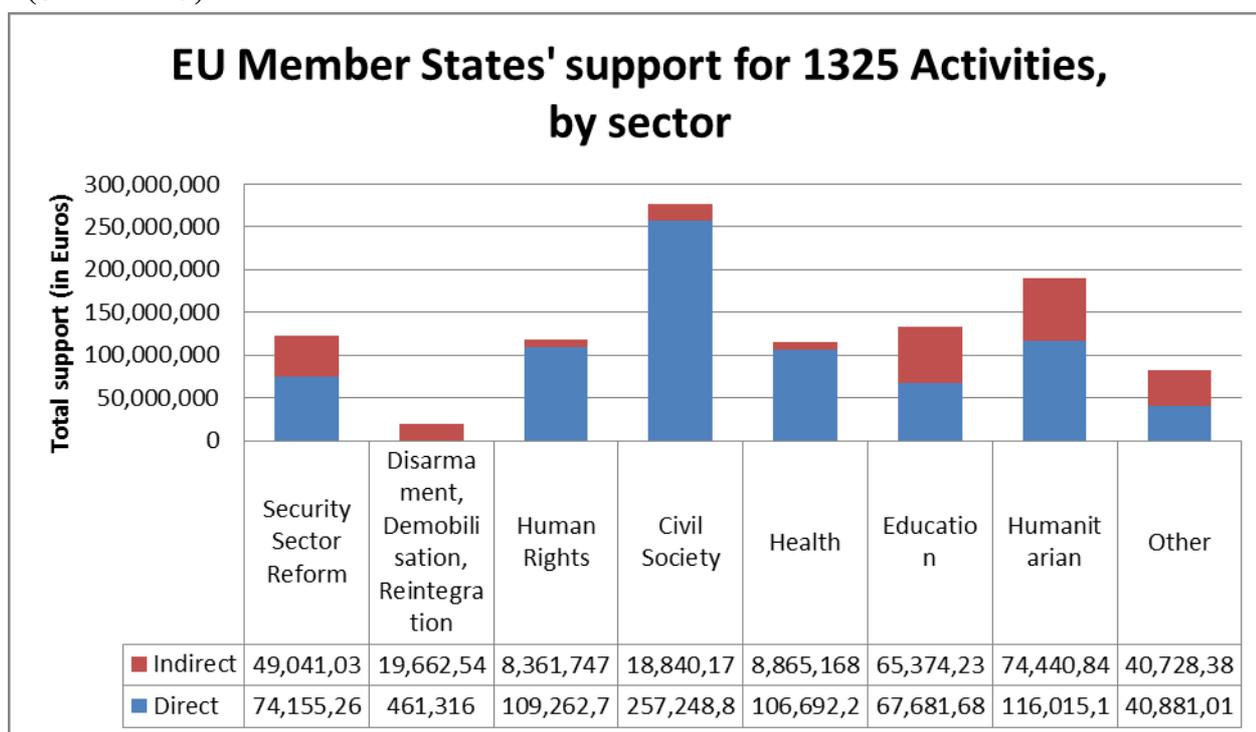
<b>Positive developments</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	

**Indicator 4: Number of Italy’s partner countries where the work on women, peace and security is coordinated between partners and/or with other donors, and type of coordination**

<b>Positive developments</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	

**Indicator 5: Number of projects or programs in specific sectors – notably Security Sector Reform, Disarmament Demobilisation and Re-integration, Human Rights, civil society, health and education, humanitarian aid and development cooperation – implemented in fragile, conflict or post-conflict countries**

(Source: EU)



**Indicator 6: Number of National Action Plans or other strategic, national documents or reporting procedures**

<b>Positive developments</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	

**Indicator 7: Number and type of joint initiatives and joint programs on women, peace and security at the global, regional and national levels with the UN and other international organizations such as NATO, OSCE and the African Union or with the World Bank and other international financial institutions (IFIs)**

<b>Positive developments</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	

**Indicator 8: Number and percentage of women mediators and negotiators and women's civil society groups in formal or informal peace negotiations supported by Italy**

<b>Positive developments</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	

**Indicator 9: Italy's initiatives in support of women's participation in peace negotiations**

<b>Positive developments</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	

**Indicator 10: Number and type of meetings of Italian delegations, Italian Embassies and Missions with women's groups and/or non-governmental organizations dealing with women, peace and security issues**

<b>Positive developments</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	

**Indicator 11: Proportion (number and percentage) of women and men heads of diplomatic missions, staff members participating in UN Peacekeeping Operations and CSDP missions at all levels, including military and police staff**

<b>Positive developments</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	

**Indicator 12: Proportion (number and percentage) of men and women trained specifically in gender equality among diplomatic staff, civilian and military staff employed by Italy; and military and police staff participating in UN Peacekeeping Operations and CSDP missions**

<b>Positive developments</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	

**Indicator 13: Number and percentage of missions and operations with mandates and planning documents that include clear references to gender/women, peace and security issues and that actually report on this**

<b>Positive developments</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	

**Indicator 14: Number and percentage of missions and operations with Gender Advisors or Focal Points**

<b>Positive developments</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	

**Indicator 15: Number of cases of sexual abuse or exploitation by Italian staff investigated and acted upon**

<b>Comparison</b>	
-------------------	--

**Indicator 16: Percentage of activity reports that include specific information on women, peace and security**

<b>Positive developments</b>	
------------------------------	--

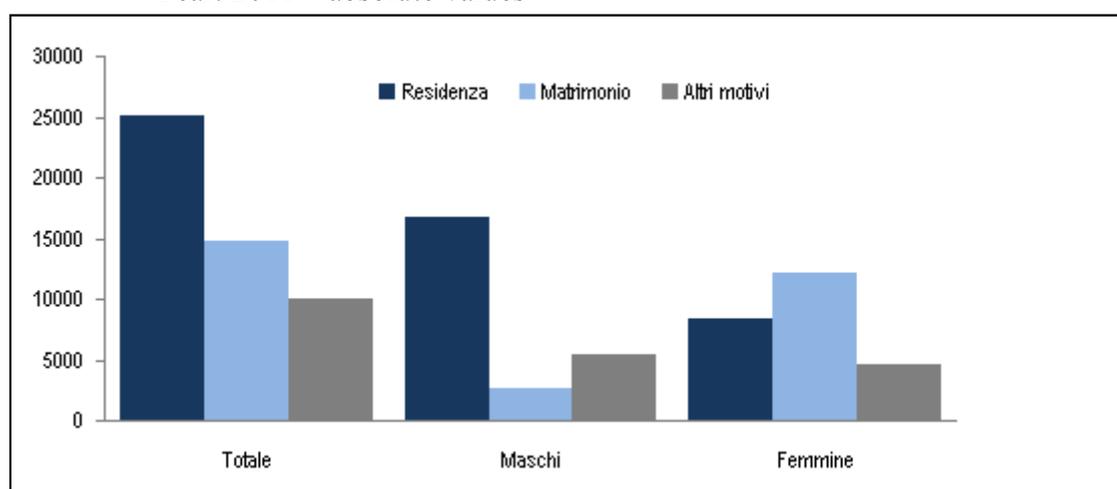
<b>Challenge</b>	

**Indicator 17: Proportion (number and percentage) and country of origin of female and male asylum seekers who have obtained the status of refugee, or benefit from subsidiary protection**

<b>Positive developments</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	

A further descriptive graph of Indicator No.17 is as follows:

**Acquisition of citizenship by Non-EU citizens in 2011, for specific reasons (gender disaggregated)**  
Year: 2011 – absolute values



Reason for their stay	Total	Men	Women
Residence	25'079	16'747	8'332
Marriage	14'744	2'580	12'164
Other reasons	10'013	5'394	4'619

*Source: data provided by the Ministry of Interior and ISTAT*

**Annex No.2 – List of experts and NGOs that participated in relevant consultations and contributed to the National Action Plan by providing useful information, insight and proposals<sup>42</sup> (alphabetical order)**

**ACTIONAID – Ms. Rossana Scaricabarozzi**

**AIDOS – Ms. Daniela Colombo**

**LAW International – Lawyer Ms. Laura Guercio, Ms. Ilenia Granitto, Ms. Simona Lanzellotto**

**MINERVA – Mr. Riccardo Severi**

**PANGEA – Ms. Augusta Angelucci; Ms. Simona Lanzoni**

**TRAMA DI TERRE – Ms. Tiziana Dal Pra**

**WILPF – Ms. Carla Greco**

**Ms. Luisa DEL TURCO, Consultant on international cooperation, Independent Expert on Women, Peace and Security related policies**

---

<sup>42</sup> Should other relevant associations request to participate in this exercise, no specific requirements are envisaged.

**ANNEX No. 3 – List of projects developed by civil society in conflict, post-conflict areas or in fragile States, partially funded by the General Directorate for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (alphabetical order)**

ACTION AID has carried out advocacy activities on Resolution 1325 for women's rights in Afghanistan. The organization is also engaged in a three-year project, co-funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, entitled "An Integrated Approach to the Reduction of Violence against Women in Afghanistan." As for Italy's role in Afghanistan, to promote and protect women's rights, ActionAid has followed the international debate on the topic, particularly in conjunction with the main international events on Afghanistan. In addition to the NATO Summit, there were conferences held in Bonn and Tokyo respectively in 2011 and 2012. During these events, ActionAid has produced documents including information on Italy's role in the implementation of resolution 1325 both regarding general action and the specific context of Afghanistan. In the framework of the project "An Integrated Approach to Reducing Violence against Women in Afghanistan," in November 2013, ActionAid organized an advocacy tour that involved three Afghan members of Parliament and the Deputy Minister of the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) during a visit to Italy with several representatives of Italian institutions, in particular, the President of the Chamber of Deputies, the Hon. Ms. Laura Boldrini, and the Contact Group of Italian Deputies with Afghan women, chaired by the Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies, the Hon. Ms. Marina Sereni. The group was also made up of Italian MPs belonging to different political parties. During the Italian visit, the Contact Group and ActionAid organized a public event at the Chamber of Deputies, also attended by the then Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sen. Ms. Emma Bonino. On the occasion of the advocacy tour, ActionAid produced a position paper, addressed to Italian institutions, with recommendations for Italy's action in Afghanistan in the next few years to promote and protect the rights of women, including information on UNSCR1325.

ActionAid has been present in Afghanistan since 2002, implementing long-term programs against poverty and injustice through a human rights based approach, by working in the Provinces of Bamyan, Jawzjan, Balkh, Kabul and Herat, where the organization is able to reach more than 300,000 people. Among its priorities, the 2012-2017 strategy of ActionAid-Afghanistan includes the fight against violence against women, food security, the promotion of children's rights, access to education for girls and boys as well as the participation of people in the construction of fair and democratic governance. Since September 2011, ActionAid has developed a project, co-funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The goals of the project are the reduction of violence through access to formal justice by women who are victims of violence; the active involvement of women in society; awareness-raising activities of community leaders, and the training of paralegals. The activities involve the participation of 1,250 women who meet twice a week in safe spaces where they can feel free to express themselves and discuss their rights and issues relevant to their lives. Sixty women coming from the same communities in which the project takes place have been trained as paralegals, developing skills on how to manage cases of violence in relation to Afghan and Islamic law in the protection of the rights of women, and on the formal justice system. The paralegals provide free advice and support for women experiencing violence. To date, more than 210 cases of violence against women and girls have been identified and managed by them. Forty of these cases were resolved positively for women. The majority of cases involve domestic violence and early and forced marriages.

Since 1997, AIDOS (Italian Association for Women in Development) has started its activities in Afghanistan. During that time, the organization supported the creation of HAWCA (*Humanitarian Assistance for Women and Children of Afghanistan*) with private funds. At that time, HAWCA, a small organization, was working primarily with refugees in Peshavar, Pakistan, focusing on the education of girls and young women who did not have access to the public school system in Pakistan.

AIDOS created a fund for the right to education of girls, especially girls and young women whose parents had studied and worked in Afghanistan during the Soviet period and who, despite being in favor of the education of their girls, could not afford to enroll them in schools. With this fund, forty Pakistani boys and girls have been able to study in the best private secondary schools, with subjects including the English language and programs inspired by the Montessori Method. In this way, many of the students graduated; some were able to achieve a Master's degree. AIDOS' intention was to create an *elite* group of Afghan women who could seize opportunities to work for the improvement of women's conditions in Afghanistan and for the modernization of the country. This has been partially realized: the project leader, Habiba Saroubi, is now the only female Governor of Bamyan in Afghanistan; the first director of HAWCA, Orzala Ashraf, has become a leading expert in the status of women in the country; and Selay Ghaffar, the first girl to earn a Master's degree thanks to a scholarship funded by AIDOS, is now the director of HAWCA. HAWCA is the most important non-governmental organization with a gender approach, supported by the Italian Government, through projects initiated by various Italian NGOs or projects funded by UNFPA and UN Women. AIDOS was also responsible for a small gender component of the project which saw ARCS as the leading NGO. Its aim is to "contribute to the peace-building process, development and stabilization of Afghanistan through the work of civil society and the promotion of dialogue and collaboration between the various actors able to mediate the process of reconciliation. Apart from participation in training activities, it held a series of meetings and seminars with representatives of Afghan civil society and the Steering Committee of the Network of Afghanistan, also in view of the 2014/2015 presidential and parliamentary elections.

LAW Int. originates from the experience with the non-profit organization LAW. It is an association of legal professionals and experts established with the objective of protecting human rights from a judicial standpoint, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in various international legally binding instruments ratified by Italy. It also provides legal technical support worldwide and in Italy, where human rights violations are most likely to occur. It conducts research, survey, monitoring and awareness-raising activities of national and international public opinion on human rights-related issues, through conferences, seminars, workshops, and lectures. To achieve its objectives, L.A.W. emphasizes the linkage between "universal rights"/positive norms as well as the relationship between CSOs and Institutions. Among its various activities, L.A.W. also focuses on the conditions of prisons. In countries such as China, Ecuador and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the organization carried out a number of projects aimed at monitoring prison conditions, in particular, in the Congolese capital of Kinshasa and other cities across the country. It also participated in the European project, "Interculturally Barrier Free Model in Organization", organized by Lenshilfe, EASPD, Ibis with funding and support coming from the European Commission. It also participated in the European Project, Equaljus, focused on the protection of LGBT rights. It also completed a project on the legal status of women in Iraq - a project on the issue of trafficking of women in Iraq as well as on the artistic tour "Culture, An Instrument of Peace" that was held in Iraq and in Kurdistan. The projects took place in partnership with Minerva and with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. In October 2011, L.A.W. lawyers provided training to cross-border police personnel coming from the EU agency, Frontex. This NGO is

currently working on projects related to the legal and social position of women in Libya and Yemen.

MINERVA Association, in collaboration with L.A.W. and with the Iraqi partner - International Alliance for Justice, implemented two projects in Iraq in 2012. Both supported the democratic reconstruction process in the country. The projects focused on the following: 1) analysis and activities to combat human trafficking; 2) tour of Italian artists in Iraq's major theaters, starting from the National Theatre in Baghdad, aimed at strengthening the cultural exchange between Italy and Iraq, and tour of "Culture as an Instrument of Peace." In the same context, Minerva organized two Italy-Iraq seminars, entitled "*Women in Iraq*," attended by Iraqi, Italian and European Parliamentarians and experts. Issues relating to the legal status of women and family law, gender equality, employment, health, freedom of religion were discussed. A project focusing on the legal and social status of women in Libya, entitled "Affirming the Legal and Procedural Protection of Women" and the project "Affirmation of Yemeni Women's Rights in the Constitution and in Society" are both currently underway.

**ANNEX No. 4 – Examples of relevant training modules**

A few examples of relevant training modules are given as follows (in particular, please find below specific indications on the subject, topics dealt with, beneficiaries and level of training):

<i>Nr</i>	<i>Training/education</i>	<i>Short description/main topics</i>	<i>Target groups</i>	<i>Phase</i>
1	<i>International Humanitarian Law and law of armed conflicts</i>	<i>fundamentals of the main aspects of the subject</i>	<i>Troops volunteers</i>	<i>basic training</i>
2	<i>International Humanitarian Law and law of armed conflicts</i>	<i>main aspects such as protection of civilians, responsibilities, war crimes, etc.</i>	<i>Sergeants</i>	<i>basic training</i>
3	<i>International Humanitarian Law and law of armed conflicts</i>	<i>main aspects such as protection of civilians, responsibilities, war crimes, etc. The Geneva Conventions and the additional Protocol. The Hague Convention.</i>	<i>Warrant Officers</i>	<i>regular course</i>
4	<i>International Law, International Humanitarian Law and law of armed conflicts</i>	<i>every officer during basic training can attend classes on this subject aimed to give to the students an adequate knowledge of the main aspects of International Humanitarian Law and Law of Armed conflicts</i>	<i>Cadets/Officers</i>	<i>regular course</i>
5	<i>International Humanitarian Law and Law of armed conflicts in military operations</i>	<i>main aspects such as protection of civilians, responsibilities, war crimes. The Geneva conventions and the additional Protocol, the Hague Convention. Treatment of military captives, wounded, protected targets etc... Other topics are: UNSCR 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960, activity of International Criminal Court with reference to warrant of arrest for war crime against humanity, sexual and inhumane acts.</i>	<i>Captains and/or Majors</i>	<i>Armed Force's junior staff course</i>

6	<i>International Humanitarian Law and law of armed conflicts</i>	<i>ongoing studies following basic educational period</i>	<i>Lt. Col. and Majors</i>	<i>Higher Joint Staff Institute course</i>
7	<i>Gender perspective, gender mainstreaming, international cooperation, UNSCR 1325</i>	<i>this class provides participants with information about the importance of a gender perspective in military activities and the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions</i>	<i>Lt. Col. and Majors</i>	<i>Higher Joint Staff Institute course</i>
	<i>Awareness of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960</i>	<i>awareness and discussion about UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions, and the implementation of a gender perspective in military operations.</i>	<i>future battalion commanders</i>	<i>pre - duty training</i>
9	<i>Awareness of NATO Bi- SC Directive 40 - 01</i>	<i>awareness and discussion about NATO Bi - SC Directive 40 - 01. Information and discussion about Gender Advisor responsibilities</i>	<i>future battalion cmdrs and Capt. attending the Army Junior Staff Course</i>	<i>higher education</i>
10	<i>Formed Police Unit (FPU) Commanders Course</i>	<i>training for future commanders/FPU Coordinator in UN Standard curricula</i>	<i>high-ranking officer</i>	<i>specific course</i>
11	<i>gender perspective, gender mainstreaming, international cooperation, UNSCR 1325, CEDAW, Italian Action Plan</i>	<i>this class aims at deepening knowledge about the importance of a gender perspective in military activities, the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions, the contents of CEDAW and the additional Protocol, and the Italian Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325</i>	<i>Col. and Brig.Gen.</i>	<i>Defense High Studies Institute course</i>
12	<i>International Humanitarian Law, law of armed conflicts, gender awareness, UNSCR 1325 and related UN</i>	<i>Train Armed Forces legal advisors about International Humanitarian Law, Military Operations Law, gender awareness and</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>legal adviser course</i>

*resolutions, CEDAW and additional Protocol*      *main UN resolutions on Women Peace and Security*

- |    |   |   |                                  |                          |
|----|---|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 13 | <i>Gender awareness, gender perspective, international cooperation, UNSCR n. 1325 and related resolutions</i>                       | <i>this class aims at deepening knowledge about gender awareness, international cooperation, the implementation of UNSCR 1325, CEDAW, the additional Protocol, and the Italian Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325.</i> | <i>Officers</i>                  | <i>CIMIC course</i>      |
| 14 | <i>Interpersonal relationships in the military, mobbing and sexual harassment</i>   | <i>information about the main problems in military life or deviant behaviors</i>  | <i>all personnel</i>             | <i>Periodic meetings</i> |
| 15 | <i>Lectures/seminars on UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions, and the introduction of a gender perspective in military operations</i> | <i>knowledge about the contents of the most important UNSCRs on these matters and the importance of a gender perspective</i>  | <i>all military personnel</i>    | <i>Periodic meetings</i> |
| 16 | <i>International Humanitarian Law</i>   | <i>Elements of International Humanitarian Law</i>   | <i>all military personnel</i>    | <i>Pre-deployment</i>    |
| 17 | <i>Cultural awareness</i>   | <i>this program prepares all personnel to be deployed. In particular personnel is taught about gender issues in a given culture and about UNSCR n. 1325 contents</i>  | <i>all military personnel</i>    | <i>Pre-deployment</i>    |
| 18 | <i>Cultural awareness Female Engagement Team course</i>   | <i>this program prepares female personnel to be deployed in operations, in particular, it teaches about the local women's culture in the aim of building good relations and understanding their needs.</i>                          | <i>female military personnel</i> | <i>Pre-deployment</i>    |

- 19 *Police, Civil and Military Relations Course*      *joint training for police personnel, military staff and civilians who are cooperating in support of peace missions*      *staff personnel*      *Pre-deployment*
- 20 *Prevention and Investigation of Sexual and Gender-Related Violence Course*      *training program on the following topics: - the effects, consequences and implications of these forms of violence in the context of international peace-making operations; - skills to handle ethnic, cultural, political and religious differences in the specific mission area; - skills in applying integrated operational procedures to combat sexual crimes; - skills in leading investigations on the above crimes, in the context of multinational missions, including assistance to victims.*      *military and police officers (or their civilian equivalents)*      *Pre-deployment*

*Course fiche*

**PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS - CoESPU**

Hosting Center	Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (COESPU)
Venue	Caserma Chinotto Via G. Medici, 87 36100 Vicenza Italy Phone: 0039 0444 9321 Nearest Airports: Venice, Verona
Target Group	20 Senior Police Officers in the rank of Colonel / Lt Colonel/Major
Number of courses ~per year	03
Duration	03 weeks

<p>Training aim and objectives</p>	<p>-understanding of the: a) <i>DPKO/DFS Operational Concept POC</i> b) <i>Framework for Drafting Mission-wide POC Strategies in UN Peacekeeping Operations</i>. - Creating awareness of critical challenges involved in the POe, and providing institutional guidance; increasing understanding of the range of civilian vulnerabilities and how to ensure they are identified and addressed; presenting methods for properly dealing with cultural differences and other types of diversity in the environments in which international operations are being conducted, as well as in host countries; enhancing the ability to carry out integrated operational procedures, and investigations, aimed to counter SGBV in a multidimensional peacekeeping operation.</p>	
<p>Training methods</p>	<p>Lectures, discussions, work groups, case studies, assignments</p>	
<p>Curriculum</p>	<p>Module 01</p>	<p><b>Overview of PoC</b> ~03 hours~ • Overview of PoC • Gaps and challenges</p>
	<p>Module 02</p>	<p><b>International Law framework</b> {OS hrs~ • International Law • International legal dimension of the PoC • <b>IHL</b> • PSO environment</p>

**Annex No.5 - EU Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities (Doc. 15779/09) available at:**  
[http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/conflict\\_prevention/docs/concept\\_strengthening\\_eu\\_med\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/conflict_prevention/docs/concept_strengthening_eu_med_en.pdf)).

