

**ITALY**



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

***National Plan of Action of Italy***  
***On “Women, Peace and Security”***

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**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN OF ITALY**  
**ON "WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY"**  
**2010-2013**

**Introduction**

On 31 October 2000, UN Security Council unanimously adopted **Resolution 1325** (S/RES/1325/2000) on “*Women, Peace and Security*”, being the first Resolution, by which UN Security Council expressly mentions the impact of conflict on women and women's contribution to conflict resolution and lasting peace.

UN Member States will be periodically invited, including by the Security Council, to strengthen their commitment towards the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325, through the adoption, inter alia, of ad hoc National Plans of Action (NAP).

By this Resolution, the UN Security Council set forth: 1. Armed conflicts mostly impact on women and children, being the most affected groups of the population; 2. Women play an essential role in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and in peace-building activities; and finally 3. It “calls upon all UN Members States” to ensure a broader participation of women in all decision-making processes, particularly in the fields of conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution.

Within this framework, the UN is guided by the principle of "zero tolerance", applying to soldiers, parties to the conflict and, *a fortiori*, to its staff, both military and civilians, in the event of sexual abuse of civilians (women and children) in conflict areas. This conduct, being contrary to international norms and punishable by law, is primarily a morally unacceptable behavior. With specific regard to the latter, Security Council adopted Resolution 1820 of June 19, 2008 (S/RES/1820/2008), as later supplemented by General Assembly's "general strategy on assistance and support for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by the UN staff and the associated personnel"<sup>i</sup>. The main purpose of this strategy is to provide for assistance to victims, by ensuring medical care, legal counseling and psychological support. Along these lines, as for those children born as a result of cases of sexual exploitation or abuse, the UN should work with Member States to facilitate the implementation of the procedure for the recognition of the paternity.

By Security Council Presidential Statement, dated October 28, 2004, it was envisaged, for the first time, the development of "National Action Plans for the implementation of Resolution 1325". Accordingly, Security Council called upon Member States “to continue to implement Resolution 1325”, including through the development of national action plans.

## **BACKGROUND**

During its two-year tenure on Security Council, Italy promoted a "*practically-minded informal group on Resolution 1325*". Jointly with other EU members and the relevant UN institutions, Italy also worked to strengthen women's participation in political processes. Italy was particularly engaged in an effective political-oriented action, by which it significantly contributed to the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008) on sexual violence in armed conflict. Considering that sexual violence, if used as a war tactic, can considerably exacerbate conflicts and hamper the restoration of peace, Italy was at the forefront of negotiations, aimed at acknowledging the linkage between international security and sexual violence.

Shortly after its two-year membership to the Security Council, Italy has continued to pay attention to this issue, by working on the follow-up initiatives to Resolutions 1325 and 1820, respectively. Security Council has shown a growing interest in the protection of women's and children's rights in armed conflict. To this end, within a very short lapse of time, it unanimously approved Resolution 1882 (2009), focused on children's rights in armed conflict, and Resolutions 1888 and 1889 (2009) on sexual violence in armed conflict, which were all co-sponsored by Italy.

At **NATO**, Italy has repeatedly stressed the recent development concerning the implementation of Resolution 1325, which the Council for the Euro - Atlantic Partnership has decided to fully integrate into policies and programs of the Atlantic Organization.

At the multilateral level, Italy is always committed to this end through the initiatives carried out by the Italian **Development Cooperation**, in various countries of the world. For instance, over the last three years (2008-2010), Italy has been funding UNIFEM initiatives, referring to Resolution 1325, for a total amount of approx. three million Euros, in Afghanistan, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Sudan, respectively.

Besides providing a consistent and structured framework for relevant activities, the present Italian National Action Plan clearly shows the Italian strong commitment to this area, in line with the EU Document, entitled "Comprehensive EU Approach to the Implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, on Women, Peace and Security<sup>ii</sup>".

Italy set up, upon initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Unit II on Human Rights, an Inter-ministerial Working Group, in order to draft the National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 as a way to strengthen and coordinate efforts in the field of the protection of women's rights, children's rights and the most vulnerable groups of the population, affected by conflict. This Working Group consisted of the following representatives: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human Rights, Directorate General for Development Cooperation, Directorate General on Political Affairs and Security-Unit II on Human

Rights), Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health, the General Command of the Carabinieri Corps, the Department of Civil Protection, Ministry of Justice, Ministry for Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy-Office of the National Equality Councilor.

Following a stock-taking exercise of the relevant activities being already undertaken or to be launched, the above Working Group has defined the targets and the main course of action of the present Plan of Action.

Considering the evolving nature of the relevant commitments and projects, the present National Plan of Action should be considered as a strategic framework, which will include, in the near future, further elements, including of an operational nature.

### **THE THREE MAIN UN RELEVANT PURPOSES AND THE SIX AREAS OF ACTION OF ITALY**

The National Action Plan should ensure a *gender* perspective in all sectors of policy and peace, as well as in all the practical measures for promoting peace.

To this end, UNSCR 1325 set forth three main objectives relating to: violence against women in armed conflict, conflict prevention and peace-building, peace missions, and development cooperation:

1. The prevention of violence against women and children, including the protection of women's and children's rights, during and after armed conflict;
2. The growing participation of women in peace processes;
3. The application of a gender-based approach in all projects and programs for the promotion of peace.

Provided that Italy is already committed towards these priorities, by the present National Action Plan on Resolution 1325, the Italian Authorities aim at effectively strengthen those actions, as envisaged by Security Council Resolution 1325.

Therefore the relevant inter-ministerial Working Group has identified a number of sub-goals, on which the present NAP reports the achievements and the state of play, in addition to new Italian commitments, either domestically or internationally.

**1. Enhancing the participation of women in the National Armed Force and in the National Police, and strengthening women's integration into peace missions, including into the relating relevant decision-making bodies.**

#### **The presence of women into Armed Forces**

Women are an essential component of both the Italian Police and Armed Force.

The **State Police** has been the first body to record, since 1959, the female presence among its ranks ("Women's Corps"). Though women initially entered with tasks exclusively related to the protection of minors, in 1981 the new legislation on Public Security (Act No. 121 of 1 April 1981) officially provided for equal opportunities between men and women. The "police reform" of 1981 equates male and female staff as for the career advancement and the performance of functions<sup>iii</sup>.

Women and men participate in the same competitions, initial training, specialization or qualification courses. At present, there are women, being: Heads of Police Headquarters (*Questori*), senior Police officials of police stations or of the traffic police sections, or directors of educational Institutes; Other women are helicopter pilots or shooting instructors, defense instructors, operational techniques and driving school instructors. As of February 1, 2009, State Police-women were 14,879 out of 100,035 units, of whom 1751 entrusted with technical, clerical or managerial functions. As for the latter figure, 32% of women are managers or executives.

With regard to **training** (including basic training and re-fresher courses) of the State Police, specific attention is paid to **assistance to victims of crime** and to other sensitive issues, such as domestic violence; for those of the Police staff to be deployed in conflict areas, the training includes the teaching of international human rights law, especially the protection of human rights of vulnerable groups, such as women and children.

As for the voluntary enlistment of women in the **military service**, Act No. 380/1999 (as subsequently reorganized by Legislative Decree No. 66/2010 containing the Code of the military system) extends the access of women to Armed Forces. Legislative Decree No. 24/2000 provides for the recruitment (on a voluntary basis), the status and career advancement of military service-women This piece of legislation was later included in Legislative Decree No. 198/2006, entitled "*Code on equal opportunities between men and women*", as recently incorporated into the above-mentioned Legislative Decree No. 66/2010.

Article 1, paragraph 6, of the above-mentioned Act No.380/1999, provided, *inter alia*, for the annually maximum quotas for the recruitment of female personnel in various roles, bodies, groups, specialty and specializations of each Armed Force, as decided by the Minister of Defense, upon proposal of the Chief of Defence Staff. The above provision was amended by Article 26 of Act No. 29/2006 (as subsequently included in Legislative Decree No.66/ 2010), by which it has been decided to cancel the above quotas for all roles, bodies, groups, specialties and specializations.

That quota system was intended as a temporary measure for the time strictly necessary to solve logistical problems, since relevant facilities had been designed for a male context. The smooth and full integration of women in the relevant system has been then ensured.

Act No.380 also provided for the establishment of an **Advisory Committee** ("*Advisory Committee for the inclusion of female volunteer personnel in the Armed Forces and the Corps of the Revenue Guard Corps*"), to assist the Chief of the Defense Staff and the General Commander of the Revenue Guard Corps in the relevant planning, coordination and assessment on the inclusion and integration of female personnel in the Armed Forces, Carabinieri Corps and Revenue Guard Corps. To effectively establish the above Committee, it was adopted, in June 2000, an ad hoc Decree of the Minister of Defense, in consultation with the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Equal Opportunities. Besides determining the terms of the above Committee, this Decree set out the composition, which was subsequently reduced by Presidential Decree (DPR No.88 of May 14, 2007), from the originally eleven to seven members. Presidential Decree (DPR of 15 March 2010, No 90), containing the Unified Text of the regulations concerning the military system, has re-organized tasks, duration and composition of the above Committee.

Provided that the access of women to Armed Forces is quite recent (dating back to approx. 10 years ago), the current percentage of the recruited female personnel amounts to about 3.5%. This figure confirms that the women's presence within the military system has been established.

Since the early recruitment of female military personnel, Armed Forces have always paid specific attention to "gender equality, equal opportunities and equality of treatment", as essential principles guiding the management of the relevant staff. To this end, the Chief of Defense Staff issued, in 2002, an ad hoc Directive, entitled "Military Ethics. This is a code of ethics and behavior, aimed at preventing any critical relations between staff members. The above Directive also stresses that the effective implementation of the above principles ensures the correct fulfillment of the institutional duties<sup>iv</sup>.

#### Order and deployment-related issues

With regard to the employment of relevant personnel at international Organizations, in Italy and abroad, **women can have access to any post**. No legislation limits their deployment. In this regard, as per procedure, the Joint Chiefs of Staff publish and submit to each Armed Force all the relevant vacancies. Those candidates who match the requirements will be recommended to the Minister of Defense, for appointment, in accordance with Act No.25 of 1997 (as currently included in Legislative Decree No.66/ 2010, while the relating Presidential Decree No.556/99 has been included in Presidential Decree No. 90 of 2010).

At present two military-women have been assigned abroad at international bodies, as follows: a Lieutenant Colonel of the Carabinieri Corps is serving as *Personal Assistant to the Chairman of the Military Committee* of NATO; and an Air Force Captain is currently at the *European Space Agency* (ESA).

As inferred from the above, this limited presence is due to the fact that the female personnel in the Armed Forces has not acquired a seniority level yet or, alternatively, has not yet acquired the necessary competence, to be deployed abroad. At present, the rank of Major is the highest level reached by female personnel in the Armed Forces, save some Carabinieri women, originally coming from the State Police, who currently cover the rank of lieutenant Colonel.

Within NATO, it dates back to long ago the establishment of the *Committee on Women in the NATO Forces* (CWINF), subsequently renamed (following the adoption of the new *Terms of References*) the *NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives* (NCGP). Italy - that participates in this Committee, on a regular basis – was one of the members even before the access of women to the Italian Armed Forces. In accordance with said *Terms of References*, the President-designate (*Chair Elect*) shall be a women official on duty. Italy's participation is currently ensured by two women, namely the President (until June 2011), being a Captain of the Army, and a national woman delegate.

In operational theaters, the presence of female personnel stands at a rate of approximately 3.3%. For certain specific tasks, women's presence is essential and somehow crucial for the accomplishment of the mission<sup>v</sup>.

Under given circumstances, the role of women is decisive to **achieve the goals of the mission**. For example, when it is necessary to interact with Muslim women or to work in Islamic territories. With care to fully respect the local cultural and religious traditions, it is crucial to ensure the deployment of women military physicians, for instance in Afghanistan and in Iraq, to solve health-related problems of the local women, as well as of female staff at the check-points or when conducting house search.

Within this framework, Italy commits itself to considering further adjustments to the legislation on recruitment, status and career advancement of women, in order to further motivate women to access Armed Forces. For example, by adopting ministerial decrees aimed at determining those posts which might be dangerous, tiring or unhealthy in the event of pregnant military-women and of those who have given birth less than seven months. Although some relevant facilities have been already realized and others are under construction, another incentive refers to the extended establishment of kindergartens and child-care centres at the Armed Forces structures and to the use of other agreed external structures, to allow parents, especially the mothers, to work without any worries.

Italy deems that the improvement of the living standards and quality of life for the military personnel and their families is a top priority. In this regard Italy provides support for those families, whose members are deployed in international missions. Indeed this goal was already a priority for the Armed Forces. As for the case of both

partners being Army's staff members, it was adopted long ago a specific Directive to support the stability of the family. This Text has become a model, subsequently adopted by all other Forces. As for the assistance to staff members and their families, it was created a coordinated network across the country, the main activities of which are, as follows: 1. Assistance to the families of the staff member engaged in long-term missions, 2. General assistance to military personnel and their family members, 3. "Care monitoring desk offices." With particular regard to item No. 1, at both the central and peripheral levels, there are special phone numbers for family members of the staff working out of area and for the military staff seeking information, inter alia, on logistical, economic, social security and health-related problems. The family can also request an immediate phone contact with the military staff member deployed out of area. As said, it is always on service the above-mentioned "Care monitoring desk office", the mission of which is to collect and screen those cases appearing to be very serious for the staff member concerned, in the event of precarious health conditions or critical situations at home, which may significantly affect both the work and the quality of life of the individuals and his/her family. Accordingly, the Human Resources Office assesses the problems submitted by the staff member concerned and searches for the best solution. Finally, in the event of death of a member of the military Staff on duty, in Italy or abroad, the Human Resources Office sets a direct contact with the families of the military-man/-woman involved, inter alia, by promptly transmitting a list of assistance and social security measures for the family, jointly with the Office's special phone number to be called in case of need (the above procedure will also allow the HRO to monitor and evaluate the implementation of relevant welfare and social security assistance measures).

Italy commits to ensuring the participation of a woman as national representative at the NATO Committee on Gender Perspective.

Given the increasing presence of women in the Armed Forces, State Police, peace missions and other relevant bodies, Italy might review, strengthen and broaden the mandate, with additional tasks, of the above-mentioned Advisory Committee of the Chief for Defence Staff and the Commander General of the Revenue Guards Corps, in order to ensure the correct implementation of the cited Act No. 380, 1999, as included in Legislative Decree No. 66 of 2010.

As above reported, the limited presence of women in the Armed Forces, particularly at the higher-rank, solely depends on the recent access of women to the military sector, dating back to approx. ten years ago. Aware that this trend will change in the following years, it is indeed a national interest to facilitate the integration of women in the Armed Forces, as is the case – since long time - with all the other labour fields, both public and private. To this end, it is crucial the permanent monitoring by relevant supervisory bodies, so as to check the correctness of the requirements set for the competition notices and to ensure the utmost transparency with regard to both the access to this job sector and the relating career advancement. Needless to say, the

legislation applies to both women and men. On equal footing with men, women have access to all ranks, qualifications and specialisations without any sort of distinction. The only difference can be detected in the competition notices for the drafting in the Army Forces which envisage more favourable minimum physical standards for women when to undertake the physical tests.

From all the above considerations, Italy deems that it is of the utmost importance to provide for adequate training activities, to ensure highly professional and specialised staff to be deployed in international teams. Within this framework, Italy is committed to develop specific initiative at CoESPU in Vicenza (Please see Section 3 below)<sup>vi</sup>.

## **2. Promoting the inclusion of a gender perspective in all Peace-Support Operations**

The access of women personnel in the Armed Forces has emphasized the need for the introduction in the military system, of a **code of conduct, by which to reaffirm primarily the principles underlying the military** institution, including the mutual respect. This Document, drafted with the support by the above-mentioned Advisory Committee, results in a sound ethical standard, to prevent any situation of critical interrelation between staff members, besides confirming that only the effective implementation of the principles of equal opportunity, equality and tolerance can guarantee the mutual respect and thus the fulfillment of the institutional duties.

Accordingly, it is feasible to draft documents designed to inform and train the personnel employed in peace missions, with regard to the issues of respect for and protection of the victims in countries in crisis, by possibly involving gender experts from the above body (the mandate of which should be first broadened).

Italy is thus committed to including in the agreements of general cooperation of the Defense sector - which recall the Charter of the United Nations and envisage, *inter alia*, peace-keeping activities and a relevant exchange of activities in the training sector - a reference to UN SC Resolution No. 1325 (and possibly to Resolution 1820). In doing so, Italy intends to raise awareness of this issue, besides positively impacting on international missions so that the personnel would be trained – also - on the relevant Security Council resolution, and the gender perspective would be implemented within the missions’ framework (for instance, through targeted support for women within peace-keeping activities).

The introduction of a gender perspective in every stage of the Peace-Support Operations activities could also be implemented through:

- The inclusion of gender-sensitive research and statistics with sex-disaggregated data and specific surveys on the other factors of discrimination;
- in situ gender-sensitive research activities, taking into account the needs, customs and habits of women of the country where the mission will be carried out.

As for the **Italian Cooperation**, since the 1990s it has been working, on a priority basis, on the issue of human rights of women, in failing States, conflict and post-conflict situations, by supporting specific emergency and development activities, by availing itself of bilateral, multi-bilateral and multilateral financial channels. With regard to the latter, it is worthy of note the involvement of some international Organizations of the United Nations system, such as UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNICRI (the latter with regard to combating trafficking) and the Intergovernmental Organization IDLO ( with regard to legal empowerment issues).

Having financed targeted initiatives for women in conflict and post-conflict situations in the Balkans region and in particular in Kosovo, Italy is currently working, in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Palestinian Territories, Somalia and the Sudan, on: women empowerment programs, capacity-building, reproductive health, violence against women and children, and gender mainstreaming (especially in two fields: a. the health-care sector, with the aim of improving women's health through a wider access to medical and health-care services, including in the field of reproductive health; b. the reconstruction of the judicial systems).

The Italian Cooperation has recently adopted (November 2010) the new Guidelines, 2011-2013, on gender equality and women's empowerment, which indicate the relevant strategic framework for the Italian Cooperations (available at: [www.esteri.it](http://www.esteri.it), web link of the Italian Development Cooperation General Directorate). This Document was inspired by the Principles of the Paris Declaration and the *Accra Agenda for Action* on Aid Effectiveness, for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly MDG No.3. Among the major themes of the Italian Cooperation action, the Guidelines include the promotion of women's rights and the fight against gender-based violence, particularly the FGM practice.

Italy intends to work to enhance/improve:

- a. The political dialogue with countries and partner agencies to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and CEDAW Convention;
- b. The actions to prevent and combat violence against women, being a human rights violation and a social cost. It will be considered a cross-cutting issue for all cooperation programs;
- c. International agreements, the implementation of international initiatives to speed up the eradication of the FGM practice, and the financing of training for NGOs and public bodies working on this issue. In developing countries, Italy will work on the strengthening of the communication and training sectors in the field of human rights and of gender-related issues.

Italy reiterates that women's *empowerment* is a priority cross-cutting issue in all main Cooperation sectors, as laid down by the above Guidelines and by the Italian

Cooperation work-plan 2011-2013, available at: <http://www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgcs/italiano/LineeGuida/LineeGuida.html>.

The planning will be mainly focused on Eastern and Sub-Saharan Africa, where to pursue the following objectives:

- i. Implementation of specific programs on women's *empowerment* and *capacity-building* for domestic institutions, including to facilitate women's participation in the reconstruction of countries emerging from conflict (in particular in Lebanon and in Palestinian Territories);
- ii. Promotion of *mainstreaming* actions in the field of food security and environment in order to facilitate the women's role in poverty eradication programs. Specific attention will be paid to those programs envisaging the access of women to the labour market and to entrepreneurial activities, including through micro-credit and job training programs;
- iii. Strengthening of the collaboration with multilateral agencies whose mission refers to reproductive health-related issues and to the fight against any forms violence against women and girls.

The measures launched so far show the necessity to intervene during the peace-keeping phase to support victims of violence, and in the post-conflict and reconstruction phases, through specific actions supporting women's associations so as to allow them to participate effectively in the elaboration of the policy planning measures for their community of origin. Within this framework, it is worthy of mention the recent "National Conference on women's role in reconstruction processes", held in Lebanon, which constitutes a good practice, including for those situations in which there are specific institutional weaknesses which might be also determined by religious or cultural limitations. This Conference was organized by Italy, with gender-related Institutions, women's associations, Italian and Lebanese NGOs, and UN agencies, in order to define gender-related action plans.

### **3. Providing specific training for personnel in charge of peacekeeping missions, particularly on the different issues contained in SC resolution 1325.**

With specific regard to military training, it is envisaged that relevant Schools and Institutes of the Armed Forces and Carabinieri Corps (Academies, Warrant Officers Schools, Education Boards for troops volunteers, enlisted in regular service in Armed Forces/ fixed service) shall include International Humanitarian Law, in their programs, with the aim of providing knowledge of the particular rules of procedure and behavior related to this subject<sup>vii</sup>.

Similar programs are also planned by ISSMI (National Institute of Joint Staff Command), for the courses of Chief of Staff of Armed Forces (and to similar ones), as well as within the course on "Legal Counselors in Armed Forces "(although within

the above courses the specific issues of the protection of children's rights and children involved in armed conflict are already taught) and for the COCIM course<sup>viii</sup>.

Within this framework, Italy will undertake to include specific in-depth courses in the programs of the relevant Training Institutes, in order to raise awareness of the content and themes related to UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1820, respectively, and on the relating implications, in particular with regard to the identification of all forms of sexual violence falling within the term "war crime", as committed during armed conflict, and with regard to health-related issues, such as FGM and HIV- AIDS.

In order to ensure the deployment of skilled personnel, it is necessary to ensure that those men and women participating in military peace missions are trained to fulfil their duties, by including courses on gender-related issues, in relevant curricula. This might be applied to senior officials and executives, as well. There will be also room to plan specific courses, on trafficking in human beings and on gender-based violence during armed conflict, for the personnel participating in peace missions.

Within this framework, it should be noted that IHL is already one of the subjects taught at the Defence Advanced Studies Centre, at which the relevant SC resolutions 1325 and 1820, respectively and the relating issues are already taught. Similar activities, including a relevant Conference, dealing with issues relating to the above Resolutions, could be also envisaged at the Training Institute of each Force and at the Carabinieri General Command.

By acknowledging relevant awareness-raising activities, the General Staff of the Navy, organized, in 2008, on an experimental basis, a Conference on "Sexual abuse and exploitation of women in armed conflict", at its NCO School, in Taranto, for both senior officials and those interested.

Within the training framework, it might be feasible to envisage the participation of some high-rank officials in junior courses on "Post Conflict Rebuilding Management", which annually takes place at the Application School and the Military Studies Institute of the Army – Studies Centre for *Post Conflict Operations*, with the aim of developing cooperation between relevant stakeholders engaged in relevant international scenarios and of enabling them to better understand the context.

A similar course is organized for the General Officers in the context of training and refresher courses at the "Centre of Excellence for *Post Conflict Operations*" of the Army, in order to develop synergies between Armed Forces and the national and foreign civil institutions.

As aforementioned, CoESPU, the *Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units*, aims at raising awareness and better preparing those participating in peace support missions, with specific attention to African countries. For the period 2011 – 2013, *CoESPU* will enhance its educational offering for an increasing number of officials. This Centre has

already envisaged additional courses for international peace-keepers (police, military staff and civilians), to be mainly deployed in operations under the UN umbrella. Among relevant courses, it is worthy of mention an ad hoc course for the training of police staff or corresponding officials of the civil service, by which to ensure :

- Awareness of gender-based violence and the relating consequences/impact on international peace-keeping operations;
- Awareness of the management of the cultural, political, ethnic, religious context, in which the mission takes place;
- Awareness of the management of operational procedures for the eradication of gender-based violence;
- Awareness of the modalities to conduct relevant investigations, in the context of a multinational mission, including support for the victims;
- Awareness of the best relevant techniques and procedures, as developed by the major International organizations.

In order to effectively implement "*Directive on measures to implement equality and equal opportunities between men and women within the public administration*", training Institutes have introduced a specific section, to promote and raise awareness about it. Other conferences concerning the so-called "social gynecology" have been equally organized for those men and women who are about to have access to the executive rank.

Within this framework, Italy is committed to developing, at national level, extended and deepened, information campaigns and training courses, for all *relevant stakeholders* on the issue of violence against women, as a way to further implement the *ad hoc* strategy provided for by the newly adopted National Action Plan on Violence Against Women<sup>ix</sup>. The third Section of this Plan is specifically devoted to refresher and permanent training for State Police and the Magistracy<sup>x</sup>. It is also worthy of mention the so-called "Week against Violence", as introduced in 2009, by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department on Equal Opportunities and the Ministry of Education, University, and Research.

On a more specific note, during the above Week, all the Italian schools organize ad hoc awareness-raising and training activities on the prevention of violence, both physical and psychological, against women and based on any forms of discrimination. In the course of this Week, the schools principals may plan lessons on violence, in which Carabinieri, State Police and relevant associations, such as ACLI, Agedo, Arcigay, ENAR, FISH, IREF, Telefono Azzurro, Telefono Rosa participate.

Conferences/seminars on "gender culture" could be organized at high school level (Military Schools). In this regard it could be put forward the proposal, for the Ministry of Education, University and Research, to include these conferences in the schools curricula activities at the national level. To this end, relevant exchange of views are being held, in order to review the educational programs.

The General Staff of the Army is considering to set up on the Armed Force intranet web-site a link on "gender perspective", in which to include the most relevant material and to launch a series of contacts with the academia on these issues. The General Staff of Defense might plan the inclusion, in the general cooperation agreements of the defense sector (which focus on peace-keeping activities), of an exchange of training activities with other countries, so as to better tackle, inter alia, the relevant Security Council resolutions, through an exchange of lessons, material, training workshops and so forth.

Pursuant to SC Resolution 1325, Italy is also committed to reviewing the criteria for evaluating the approach of those to be deployed in peace missions. Indeed this issue is already tackled but in very general terms. So far, during the Education and Training phase, relevant Authorities have already developed guiding principles to select the personnel to be sent on mission, so as to effectively assess in advance their approach.

#### **4. Protecting human rights of women, children and other vulnerable groups either fleeing from armed conflict or living in conflict and post-conflict areas (including refugees camps) and strengthening women's participation in peace processes.**

The analysis of this goal began by considering the issue of violence against women, which can be defined as an abuse of power and of control, manifested through physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse.

Within the range of physical and psychological effects caused by sexual violence, WHO enlists the temporary and permanent disabilities, unwanted pregnancies, the voluntary interruption of pregnancy, sexually communicated diseases, dysfunctions of the urogenital apparatus, infertility, rape trauma syndrome, post-traumatic stress syndrome, gastrointestinal diseases, cardiovascular diseases, asthma, depression, phobias, anxiety, abuse of psychotropic substances, food disorders, self-injurious behaviors. The perception of the seriousness of the sexual violence, regardless of the physical violence, does not diminish with the time passing by. Violence against women can be considered as a public health problem, which should involve health and medical care-givers in both the prevention of the phenomenon and the treatment of physical and mental consequences.

Italy is committed to dealing with a variety of the aforementioned issues.

Nationally, legislation on sexual violence (Act No. 66/99) has introduced some important new provisions, such as the inclusion of sex-related crimes within the category of crimes against the individual, the rise of detention penalty term, the introduction of the crime of group sexual assault. At the international level, in light of Resolution 1820, it is also worthy of mention the Italian commitment for the forthcoming adoption, by Legislative Decree (A.S. 2099), of the newly drafted "code

on military missions abroad”, (as already approved by the Council of Ministers in March 2010), by which to fully implement Article 8 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

FGM is a practice affecting the physical and psychological integrity of women, especially girls and teenagers, in many African countries as well as in some Asian countries. The differing extent depends on the situation on the ground. The percentage of women, victims of FGM, amounts to 98% in Somalia, 25 %, in Yemen, 5%, in Congo, respectively. These data - indicating the rising breadth of mutilation - shows the extension of FGM, globally - being practiced in over 35 countries across the world.

Italy has been thus committed to fighting against this practice, inter alia, by adopting ad hoc Guidelines for medical staff, indicating the approach to be followed to help those women, victims of this crime, who often are not even aware of the relating consequences<sup>xi</sup>.

Furthermore, by Act No. 7/2006, Italy has introduced in the Penal Code, Article 583-bis, by which to punish, with the detention penalty ranging from 4 to 12 years, “whoever practices FGM without therapeutic needs”<sup>xii</sup>. In accordance with the extra-territoriality principles, such provision also applies when this conduct takes place abroad either by an Italian citizen or by a foreigners living in Italy or if committed to the detriment of an Italian citizen or of a foreigner living in Italy. With regard to he latter case, the Minister of Justice may request, if the person concerned is found guilty, the application of the above penalty. Last Article 583-ter envisages an additional penalty for the medical care-giver committing one of the relevant crimes enlisted under Article 583-bis, namely the prohibition to continue the work in the relevant field, from 3 through 10 years.

Within this framework, Italy has re-established the Commission on Female Genital Mutilation, by Decree of June 9, 2009, mandated, inter alia, to elaborate ad hoc programs aimed at preventing and combating FGM.

On January 22, 2010, it was presented a pilot-project, entitled "Strategies to fight against sexual violence and domestic violence", promoted by Telefono Rosa, Hospital Sant'Andrea and the Second Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of “La Sapienza” University, in collaboration with the Department for Equal Opportunities, by which it was planned a training course for experts and professionals of the sector (for free) (See further information, available at [www.pariopportunita.it](http://www.pariopportunita.it) ).

In 2009, the Ministry of Health contributed to drawing up Guidelines on "Global health: guiding principles of Italian Cooperation", which included principles to be applied in emergency management-related activities. Over the last years, the Italian Cooperation has been developing various projects in conflict areas, including on the

assistance to the population affected by post-traumatic stress syndrome (e.g. the Balkans). At the forefront of national and international emergency management, the Italian Civil Protection adopted in 2006 general criteria concerning psycho-social measures to be realized in emergency situations and natural disaster-affected areas. By acknowledging this topic, the Ministry of Health launched a collaboration, at the national level, with the Italian Civil Protection shortly after the earthquake in the city of L'Aquila (April 2009). In 2010 it has been elaborated a project, by the Disease Monitoring Centre, in order to evaluate the medium-term impact of the earthquake, on the health conditions of the population. With regard to the training in the field of the so-called psychology of the emergency, in recent years, the Ministry of Health has been accrediting an increasing number of training events for field professionals.

At the international level, within the Italian-Israeli Cooperation in the field of health care, it was organized, in collaboration with the Region of Lombardy, a two-week course in Israel, in March 2009, on emergency management, which also dealt with the consequences of the post-traumatic stress syndrome.

Moreover, it has been acknowledged that, jointly with women, boys and girls are the primary victims of the consequences of the armed conflict. As per tradition, those seriously injured by landmines or by serious permanent malformations, are admitted to Italian hospitals, On the contrary, this form of assistance has never been provided in the event of women or girls, victims any forms of violence. To do so, the higher involvement of women is needed in particular when elaborating the security measures to be implemented at all stages of the post-conflict operations (e.g., prevention and care measures within the camps management planning).

Within this framework, it is worthy of mention, as a good practice, a number of projects, developed in Afghanistan with the support of teams solely composed of women, so as to effectively involve the local female population in some activities, as resumed after the war period: A course in obstetrics and first aid for Afghan women in order to give birth safely; and a first aid course, to ensure it in remote locations, lacking of specialized medical care<sup>xiii</sup>.

Within this framework, the personnel of the Armed Forces, especially the female staff in the field, will closely work with both women's and local leaders' representatives, to support the population in the creation of local facilities aimed at the above activities or at ensuring adequate assistance to relevant local experts, including by providing trained medical staff.

Considering the involvement, in armed conflict areas, of auxiliary bodies, such as the Voluntary Nurses Corps of the National Red Cross, mainly aimed at rescue and first aid activities, it might be put forward the proposal to initiate forms of collaboration with those relevant organizations working in the field, in order to provide support and assistance (in fields, such as gynecology, psycho-therapy, psychology, etc.) for

women victims of abuse and traumatized by the conflict. The above organizations work in multi-ethnic therapy centres, established in post-conflict areas, with medical teams or ad hoc experts being trained to this end.

Within the post-conflict framework, it is essential to ensure that the peace mission personnel complies with the codes of conduct relating to SC resolution 1325, in order to effectively protect human rights, particularly of women – the most exposed to human rights violations. Provided that women represent the predestined victims of those difficult situations originating by the post-conflict context, the peace missions' staff should be thus trained to tackle whatsoever relevant situation.

As aforementioned, in line with the cited Italian Development Cooperation's Guidelines on Health, the Italian Cooperation has been developing, over the last years, various ad hoc projects in conflict-affected areas, including on the post-traumatic syndrome.

Last Italy is committed to strengthening the role of women in reconstruction programmes, including by encouraging women's access to microcredit, since they are the least favoured group of the population vis-à-vis competitiveness-related issues.

### **5. Engagement of the civil society in the implementation of SC Resolution 1325**

Indeed Italy deems that it is important to highlight the relevant initiatives, as promoted by the civil society and by decentralised bodies that emphasize, through their work, the importance of the territorial dimension and the work at the grass-root level, by which these entities provide for a window of opportunity for local women. Thanks to them, women can express their views and abilities in the following fields: economy, environment protection, political and governmental decision-making processes.

To this end, it is of the utmost importance to involve women's associations and women's networks.

Given the NGOs' role in the field, it is also necessary to emphasize that NGOs might help collect and analyse relevant sex-disaggregated data, so as to comprehensively evaluate the war's impact and the concrete job opportunities for women where there are peace-building missions.

Furthermore, considering the widespread presence of NGOs in the areas concerned and their added value in enhancing dialogue between the parties to a conflict, it might be strengthened their role and contribution to the advancement of the gender's culture, by envisaging, inter alia, ad hoc communications campaigns or specific forms of support to employ female personnel in post—conflict reconstruction processes.

The Italian Authorities intend to launch a constructive dialogue with the thematic working group on gender policies, which was set up in 2006. Within this framework,

the Italian Development Cooperation will conduct periodic consultations with the Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights (CIDU), in its capacity of National Focal Point on SC resolution 1325 (See below).

## **6. Monitoring and follow-up activities**

I. At the domestic level, Italy is committed to:

3. Recognizing the inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights (CIDU) as the national focal point on SC resolution 1325;

As national focal point, CIDU:

3.1. Will monitor the activities reported in the present NAP;

3.2. Will promote and convene periodic exchanges of views and meetings with the Administrations concerned – those that participated in drafting the present Plan – and the civil society;

3.3. Will circulate and raise awareness of the present Plan, including at the parliamentary level, by annexing it to the CIDU annual report to the Parliament;

3.4. Will bring the present Plan to the attention of the Parliamentary Observatory on Human Rights, to ensure the utmost visibility, in a systemic and systematic manner.

II. At the International level, Italy is committed to:

1. Dealing with this issue in the countries concerned, through its Embassies (See Somalia, Iraq, Lebanon, etc.), and on the occasion of relevant bilateral and multilateral meetings, as appropriate. A Memo will be circulated to this end.

2. Introducing the issue, “Women, Peace and Security” among the priority questions to be put forward, during the UPR sessions (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council (Geneva), being a review to be undertaken by all UN Member States.

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<sup>i</sup> GA resolution (62/214) of March 7, 2008.

<sup>ii</sup> and by also considering the following documents: 10 points on 10 years UNSCR 1325 in Europe (CSO Position Paper on Europe-wide Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325), 8 points of agenda for women's empowerment and gender equality in crisis prevention and recovery UNDP, "Civil Society, Recommendations on the Implementation of UN SCR 1325 in Europe." As for the dairy, it is worthy of mention That Pangea, one of the Most relevant Italian Association / Foundation, the Actively participated in the drafting process. [http://expert.care.at/downloads/careexpert/CS\\_Recommendations\\_1325inEurope.pdf](http://expert.care.at/downloads/careexpert/CS_Recommendations_1325inEurope.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> See also Legislative Decree No.66, of 15 March 2010, entitled Code of the military system

<sup>iv</sup> *Issues relating to the recruitment, status and career advancement.*  
The issues related to recruitment, the juridical status and progress are covered in general terms, in obedience to the principle of equal opportunities as provided by the regulations applicable to the male staff. Female staff have access to the different degrees, qualifications and specializations in a completely equal way to male staff without any distinction.

As regards the protection of female staff, the said Decree No.198/2006 ("Code of equal opportunities between men and women") prohibits the discrimination between women and men in the military careers, by introducing additional forms of protection for the female staff during the training courses periods.

As for the protection of parenthood, the laws of the Armed Forces have implemented "tout court" the regulations provided by Legislative Decree No. 151/2001, save those measures not compatible with the peculiarities of the Armed Forces, and for which the Legislative Decree No. 165/2001 provides for a specific dispensation for military personnel. Therefore, the pregnancy condition, as well as those of maternity and paternity leave, are comprehensively protected.

Finally, by Presidential Decree No.171/2007 (the last relevant measure concerning the staff of the Armed Forces) it has been introduced, at Article 14, a variety of regulations aimed at developing the above-mentioned protection measures for parents working in the Armed Forces.

<sup>v</sup> (Source - Ministry of Defence - 1st July 2010)

Italian female military personnel (save military chaplains - 144 units)

Armed Forces	Officers	NCOs	Troop	Total	Headcount Total Force	% Women compared to stock Forces
Army	236	69	6637	6942	106.785	6,50%
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	154	74	581	809	43148	1,87%
Carabinieri	192	398	727	1317	108642	1,21%
Total				10551	303440	3,48%

<sup>vi</sup> On 1 March 2005, on the basis of commitments taken by Italy within the G8 Summit in Sea Island in 2004, which adopted the Action Plan "Strengthening Global Capacity for Peace Support Operations (PSO); the Carabinieri Corps, resorting to its expertise as a military force enlisted in regular police service for public safety and to the contribution of the U.S. State Department, has set up at the Barracks "Chinotto" in Vicenza, the *Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU)*, aimed to increase global skills for peace support operations, with particular attention to the African countries.

The purpose of the Action Plan consists in training, by 2010, 75,000 international peacekeepers, of which 10% will consist of police "like-Carabinieri/gendarmarie" specializing in the management of transition processes from a post-crisis situation to a more stable context that should allow the rebuilding activities. Of the 7,500 police units, 3,000 will be trained at the CoESPU with the approach of "training the trainers" and the remaining 4,500, in cascade, in the countries of origin/provenance.

The training system conceived since the settlement of the Center until the end of this year provides for a plan of courses lasting 4-6 weeks, in English, and at least one course per year in French, for Senior Officers (High Level) and for Junior Officers / NCOs (Middle Management), distinguished according to two different professional backgrounds and foreseeable employment functions. The countries that have encouraged the institution of the courses concerned are: Burkina Faso, Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, Gabon, Jordan, Indonesia, Kenya, India, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Ukraine, Togo, USA and Bangladesh. In 2010, under the IOM project - TACTIK (Training and Awareness on Counter - Trafficking for peacekeepers), funded by the U.S. Department of State, and carried out in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, the CoESPU hosted a training course for the trainers of the Carabinieri Force and for Officials in force at departments involved in Operating Theatres, aimed at increasing the Carabinieri peacekeepers qualification on trafficking in human beings and at improving their ability to contribute to the efforts of *host countries* in fighting against this phenomenon at all levels.

The program of this course, properly set up, has been included in all these High Level and Middle Management courses. Moreover, in the third decade of January 2011, Carabinieri and IOM experts will go to the International Peace Support Training Center of Kenya, within the framework of the same project, acting as trainers in a "Training of Trainers" course, that will take place for the trainers employed in the African peacekeeping training centers, on the issue of THB (Traffic of Human Beings) in operational theaters. The training program implemented at the Center includes specific units concerning vulnerable groups, assistance to the victims of this kind of crime, as well as techniques to combat against this phenomenon, with particular attention to events and circumstances that may occur in various Theaters of operation.

<sup>vii</sup>For instance: the Charter of the United Nations, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols; the applicability of the law on armed conflicts to peace operations; the ban on the use of force and self-defense in the UN Charter and in international practice, the Protection of the Human Rights, from the Universal Declaration to the repression of international crimes, war crimes and the repression of gross violations of humanitarian law, the jurisdiction of international courts, with particular reference to the International Criminal Court, etc..

Relevant provisions of international humanitarian law is also covered in the *curricula* of basic training units. The topic is also addressed in the course of lectures "ad hoc" carried out during the course for those supervising.

<sup>ix</sup> " 3a) preparation of specific training courses for law enforcement, by using behavioral and organizational models already tested in some local situations (Cosenza Attorney's Office, Police Headquarters of Catania and Verona) that adopt the protocols with the following acronyms: SARA "Spousal Assault Risk Assessment"; SILVA, "Stalking victims and risk assessment for authors"; EVA, "Examination of Violence shakes. " 3b) making aware the judiciary in the context of organizational discretion granted to courts, in order to promote specific training sessions planned for magistrates' qualification - both at central and decentralized level - (Department of Equal Opportunities and the Ministry of Justice). 3c) promotion of the educational role of the Section "persecutory actions" of the scientific investigation group, as provided by the Convention signed between the General Command of the Carabinieri and the Department of Equal Opportunity. "

<sup>x</sup> This Plan has been approved by the so-called State-Regions Conference on October 28, 2010 and the last step for its final administrative implementation is soon expected. Some relevant training courses have been launched in 2010. In particular it is worth recalling that, following the agreement between the Carabinieri Corps and DPO, the training course on the crime of stalking, through the Unit "Stalking" of the "Scientific Investigation Groups", has been initiated.

<sup>xi</sup> As for the infibulation (approx. 15% women victims of FGM), it is important to ensure the defibulation before the natural birth, to be carried out in the initial three-month term of the pregnancy or when delivering Needless to say, the Guidelines widely stress the need to define this decision with the woman concerned, by also stressing to both parents the impossibility to re-infibulate after the birth

<sup>xii</sup> The female genital mutilation practice is defined as clitoridectomy, excision and infibulation, and any other practice that causes similar effects. The same provision also punished with imprisonment from three to seven years, anyone causes damage to the female genital organs other than those listed in the first paragraph, in absence of therapeutic needs, in order to diminish sexual function, which may give rise to physical or mental disease. The punishment is increased in one third when the practices are perpetrated against a child or if the act is committed for profit.

<sup>xiii</sup> It is important to recall also the *women teacher* project, which has seen young teachers teach in schools for Afghan girls to read and write; Moreover, in October 2010, also in the Afghan theater the *Women Social Center* opened. This is a center where women from Herat can start to run small business activities, professional training courses and attend social and recreational development programs, in addition to receiving assistance. The building, made from Italian Provincial Reconstruction Team in Herat, was financed by the Ministry of Defence. It arises over four floors with

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thirty-six shops, an entertainment room with gym equipment, a meeting room and clinic, where will be freely provided psychological counseling and legal advice.