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Delegation of Italy

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR STEFANO BALDI,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY, AT THE 80th JOINT MEETING OF  
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION AND THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 March 2021

**Women, peace and security agenda**

Madam Co-Chairpersons,

Italy aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. I should now like to add a few comments in a national capacity.

First of all, I should like to thank the Swedish Chairmanship of the OSCE and the US Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation for devoting this meeting to resolution 1325, which remains among Italy's foreign policy priorities. I should also like to thank the speakers for their very interesting contributions to the discussion.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that, on 10 December, our institutions approved the Fourth National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security, covering the years 2020 to 2024. It has been allocated a substantial budget to finance projects and measures to strengthen gender equality in this area over the next three years.

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the new Plan pursues the following four objectives:

- Promoting the role of women in peace processes and in all decision-making processes;
- Strengthening the gender perspective in peace operations;
- Empowering women in conflict and post-conflict areas, together with gender equality and protection of the human rights of women and girls;
- Strengthening communication, promotion and training activities on the women, peace and security agenda, also with a view to fostering synergies with civil society.

At the international level, our commitment became more evident after Italy launched the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network in October 2017, which is now established as an important point of reference on the international women, peace and security agenda.

Today, the Network, consisting of more than 60 specialist mediators from 21 countries in the Mediterranean area, provides training and opportunities for discussion. The partnership with other regional institutions led in 2019 to the establishment of the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediators Networks.

Madam Co-Chairpersons,

Twenty years after the adoption of resolution 1325, we believe that the international community must step up its efforts to fully implement it. The number of States to have adopted a national plan still falls short of expectations, and the figure becomes even more unsatisfactory if those countries that have earmarked adequate funds for their national plans are considered.

In fact, women still remain under-represented in peace processes, despite their essential contribution, and the OSCE, in our view, has a role to play in that regard.

In conclusion, I should like to confirm that Italy will continue to contribute to the implementation and promotion of resolution 1325, also within the framework of this Organization.

Thank you.