

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/438/21
25 March 2021

ENGLISH
Original: ITALIAN

Delegation of Italy

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR STEFANO BALDI,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE OSCE, AT THE
1307th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

25 March 2021

The 22nd anniversary of NATO's response to the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo

After more than 20 years, I believe it is appropriate to recall first of all the historical circumstances that led NATO to intervene in Kosovo in 1999, an intervention that came at the culmination of the international community's repeated attempts to find a diplomatic solution, to which Italy made a significant contribution and lent its firm support, in order to put a stop to the violence and the blatant violation of human rights.

I believe that it is also our duty here to express our renewed sympathies to the families of all the victims of those tragic events that shook the region in 1999.

The profoundly humanitarian reasons for that intervention cannot be forgotten and must make us reflect on the importance of dialogue and diplomacy as a valuable resource for building prospects for peace and prosperity. With this spirit, which inspires this Organization and in which it identifies itself, we look to the future with confidence in the knowledge of the progress made in building the partnership between NATO and Serbia in recent years.