



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia  
OSCE

**MIN. PLEN. GIANLUCA ALBERINI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS**

**2022 MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE  
ITALY'S STATEMENT AT THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL SEGMENT "ADVANCING SECURITY AND  
COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: THE ROLE OF YOUTH"**

Jordan, 24 October 2022

Mr Chair,

Italy aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to add some additional remarks in a national capacity.

I wish to warmly thank the North Macedonian Chair of the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, Jordan as the hosting country, the Polish Chairman in Office of the OSCE, and the OSCE Secretariat for organising this year's Conference.

By recognising "the relationship which exists in the broader context of world security, between security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean area", the 1975 Helsinki Act contained a strong appeal to pursue a common approach to addressing regional security concerns, across all three OSCE dimensions, thus reaffirming the indivisibility of European and Mediterranean security. All the more so, in a time when our countries and societies are called to endure and mitigate the negative impact of the several security crises, among which stands the illegal and unjustified war of aggression by Russia against Ukraine.

I would like to underline that the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership for cooperation is the only forum that allows for 63 Governments to discuss and work together on a shared

Mediterranean security agenda. An agenda where the role of the youth is of particular relevance, in a comprehensive approach to security matters.

Indeed, young people have the potential to play a crucial role in our joint efforts to pursue stability and peace in our regions. The OSCE has adopted political commitments and strategies, among them the Milan Ministerial Council “Declaration on the role of youth in contributing to peace and security efforts”. Leadership and engagement by the participating States in implementing those commitments and strategies are of the essence.

While aiming at this goal, we should also strive to promote a change of paradigm, switching the narrative from merely victimising youth as vulnerable to risks and threats to security, to presenting young people as positive agents to build peace and security. In order to do so, we need to actively and positively engage the youth, listen to their voices and aspirations, and understand their concerns: a crucial step to build upon the potential of their agency in promoting peace and security.

Listening to young people and engaging them is at the core of the Italian international agenda on the Youth, both within regional organisations such as the OSCE and the Council of Europe, and at the UN level, as well as in the framework of the bilateral cooperation with our partners, including the OSCE Mediterranean partners.

Just to mention a few examples, I would like to recall our financial support to the OSCE extrabudgetary projects on the Young Policy Advisers Course (POLAD) open to young civil servants from the governments and public institutions of the Mediterranean Partners, and the project supporting young green entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean (GEMS). In cooperation with North Macedonia, we are also supporting the participation of GEMS awardees to an upcoming activity under the YDEAS project implemented by OCEEA with the support of Italy and dedicated to young entrepreneurs in the Western Balkans. The aim is to create innovative opportunities to foster dialogue and cooperation among young people of our regions.

At the UN level, we have co-sponsored in 2020 the UNSC resolution 2535 “Youth for Peace” and we strongly support the UN Youth Delegate Programme, as well as initiatives and programmes implemented by UN Agencies in the OSCE Mediterranean Partners.

Youth and the contribution that young people can provide for the development of the MENA region are also among the main topics of the agenda of the MED Dialogues that

are hosted every year in Rome by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

In conclusion, in the face of traditional and new security threats within and encroaching upon our regions, and due to the multi-dimensional nature of most of our security concerns, we have to address threats and concerns by pursuing coordinated and cooperative policies and efforts. In this endeavour, we cannot set aside or marginalise the contribution that can come from the youth. Promoting a comprehensive approach where young people, among other actors and stakeholders, can participate in mitigating and countering security threats is an opportunity to be seized and developed further.

In this regard, I look forward to continuing our discussion on this topic at the Ministerial Council in Łódź. In the meantime, I wish all of you fruitful exchanges and discussions.

Thank you