



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
OSCE

AMB. STEFANO BALDI

ITALY'S STATEMENT
AT THE OSCE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION GROUP MEETING
**“Empowering woman and youth in times of crisis: unlock the power of human rights for
building just and sustainable economies”**

Vienna, 28 June 2022

Madame Moderator,

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

I would like to thank the North Macedonian Chair for including the issue of the empowerment of women and youth in the agenda of the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation Group. As we heard from the Secretary General Helga Schmid and Director of ODIHR Matteo Mecacci, as well as from the other distinguished speakers, this is an issue of strategic importance, especially as we confront the challenges of the post-Covid-19 pandemic recovery and the wider consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

While women and young people are often the most affected by crises and conflicts, they also play a vital role in finding innovative solutions. Their active political participation and their contribution to society and the labour market, as well as their involvement in conflict mediation or climate action, is essential for the full implementation of our shared commitments.

I am glad to announce that Italy will support the proposal of the North Macedonian Chair to organise a dedicated workshop later this year for young diplomats from Mediterranean partner countries and OSCE participating States. This project is an excellent opportunity to strengthen the ties between our countries and to improve the knowledge of OSCE activities.

In line with the Ministerial Declaration on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean adopted in Milan in 2018, the OSCE can play a meaningful role in fostering security cooperation in the Mediterranean region through active engagement of women and youth.

For this reason, Italy also supported the proposal of the former Polish Chair of the Mediterranean Partners Group to hold a course for young policy advisers, which was successfully organised by ODIHR earlier this year – as a follow up to the first young Policy Advisers Course specifically dedicated to Mediterranean partner countries, which was promoted by Italy in 2019.

During our Chairpersonship in 2018, Italy promoted the OSCE GEMS Award for young green entrepreneurs making social impact in Mediterranean region, with the aim to recognise innovative business ideas which achieved environmental impact while at the same time pursuing social objectives.

Italy continues to support the OSCE in its efforts to expand opportunities for skills' development and job creation, improve the employability of youth and women and promote an enabling environment for innovative, socially-impactful and green start-ups, in particular through the YDEAS project implemented by the Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities in the Western Balkans region. As the second phase of this project was successfully launched earlier this year, new opportunities should be explored to involve in the activities also participants from our Mediterranean partners and to facilitate an intra-regional dialogue and sharing of experience.

Finally, allow me to recall that every year, women and youth empowerment are also at the centre of the Rome-MED Mediterranean Dialogues, the only international conference specifically dedicated to the wider Mediterranean region, with the aim to promote a common agenda for peace, prosperity and cultural dialogue across the two shores of the Mediterranean.

Thank you.