



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
OSCE

STATEMENT OF ITALY AT THE SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING “PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE: GOOD PRACTICES IN FOSTERING A WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH TO YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION ACROSS THE OSCE AREA.”

Vienna, 14 May 2024

Mr Chairman,

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and would like to add some remarks in a national capacity.

First of all, I would like to thank Ambassador Peter Burian and the distinguished speakers for their invaluable insight and expertise on this most important topic and in particular for their suggestions on how to promote a whole-of-society approach to youth crime prevention and how to enhance the valuable experience of the OSCE in this area.

Italy is very proud to support the OSCE work on youth crime prevention, namely under the project activities implemented in South-Eastern Europe by the Transnational Threats Department and the Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental activities. This includes the financial and expert support the OSCE provided to the Canton of Sarajevo in the preparation of its Youth Strategy 2024-2028, launched earlier this year.

The work carried out by the OSCE in cooperation with local authorities and civil society organisations is an excellent example of the OSCE holistic approach to youth crime prevention – based on education and awareness raising activities, civil society engagement and recognizing and addressing youth risk factors at an early stage.

This is crucial for the safety and security of our communities, but most importantly, to give young people the skills and confidence they need to make positive choices and become active contributors to society. This is a priority for us and we are glad to see it reflected in today’s discussions.

We also look forward to the upcoming regional Youth Dialogue Forum in Albania, where young people will have the opportunity to discuss the key challenges and vulnerabilities they face and to share ideas and best practices on how to strengthen the rule of law, integrity and crime prevention within their communities and the region as a whole.

It is indeed essential to work closely with young people and to identify their specific needs and concerns in a comprehensive manner, in order to create an environment where young people are empowered and they are able to fulfil their rights, needs and interests and to effectively contribute to the economic, social and political development of their communities.

Thank you Mr Chairman.