



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
OSCE

AMB: ANDREA CASCONI

**ITALY'S STATEMENT AT THE 2025 WARSAW HUMAN DIMENSION
CONFERENCE
PLENARY SESSION 1: HUMANITARIAN ISSUES**

Warsaw, 7 October 2025

Madam Chair,

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

Italy pays particular attention to humanitarian challenges in the context of armed conflicts. Among these, the protection of children must remain our priority. Safeguarding children is not only a legal obligation under international humanitarian law, it is a moral imperative and a foundation for lasting peace and security.

At the OSCE, the Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict has worked actively in this direction. We introduced an additional voluntary questionnaire on children and armed conflict, attached to the annual Code of Conduct. In 2025 17 participating States have responded. This tool helps us share best practices, identify gaps and strengthen respect for international humanitarian law. We warmly encourage more participating States to take part.

Beyond this, the Group has organized seminars on critical issues such as child trafficking and children born of war. These initiatives shed light on the unique vulnerabilities of children fleeing conflict and the long-term challenges faced by those born in situations of violence.

The urgency of this agenda is tragically clear in Ukraine. Children there continue to endure displacement, trauma and the destruction of schools and

hospitals. Reports of forced transfers and deportations remind us that children are paying a terrible price for war.

In addition, sexual violence against children in conflict remains one of the six grave violations identified by the UN Security Council, and yet it is still vastly underreported. Girls, in particular, remain disproportionately affected, as well as children with disabilities. The OSCE, with its comprehensive approach to security, can play a vital role in helping participating States strengthen prevention, protection and accountability.

In particular, the OSCE can help building capacity and cooperation through training for law enforcement, national action plans and cross-border collaboration. Secondly, it can empower youth as partners in peacebuilding. Their voices must be heard in shaping solutions. We also stress the need to enhance the protection and recognition of young humanitarian volunteers, recognizing their crucial role in humanitarian work, particularly in complex and conflict-ridden areas. And at last, it can reinforce accountability and international humanitarian law, using the voluntary questionnaire as a practical tool to track commitments and share lessons learned.

Madame Chair,

Protecting children is not an optional addition to our work. It is a fundamental element of any effective conflict resolution strategy. Italy will continue to support efforts within the OSCE to ensure that children are not forgotten but placed at the centre of our collective security.

Thank you
