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## Statement by the Hon. Giovanna Martelli

### Women Peace and Security Security Council -13 October 2015

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

I wish to begin by rejoicing on behalf of Italy for today's adoption of resolution 2242 by the United Nations Security Council on « Women, Peace and Security », whose contents we fully support. We extend our thanks to Spain and United Kingdom for the work carried out to this goal.

In this regard, I cannot abstain from pointing out that even in political crises that anticipate armed conflict and where there are violations of fundamental human rights, there is a different impact between men and women.

Studies of the phases directly preceding the outbreak of armed conflict show a consistent stereotyping of the roles of men and women with a consequential increase in violence against women.

In the acute phase of conflict sexual violence against women and girls becomes a weapon of war used on a large scale (50,000 rapes during the War in the Balkans) and domestic violence increases as well:

- in the Kosovo Region of the 23% of women victims of violence approximately half have indicated as the time in which the violence in their relationship began was 1998-1999 (beginning of the conflict). Noteworthy is also the fact that sexual violence (domestic and beyond) tends to increase during post-conflict.

Thus the participation of women in negotiations becomes fundamental to guarantee adequate intervention in the phases following the signing of peace

agreements. Even more fundamental is the inclusion of gender issues at the negotiating table to not render the presence of women completely irrelevant. Maintaining a gender perspective in negotiations guarantees, during reconstruction, a new definition of “security” as the human and social condition based on the exercise of one’s fundamental human rights (*i.e.* meeting one’s basic needs, health, education, work) which are the main instruments of peace.

Taking on the invitation expressed by the Prime Minister of Spain, Rajoy, on the need to further encourage cooperation in this field, building upon the remarks by the Chilean Vice-Minister Gloria Mañalongo I wish to underscore the importance of dialogue with civil society. From this Friday there will be already the institution of formal dialogue of structured partnership in the framework of our Action Plan against violence.

Peace I was referring to just now, hence, is clearly obtained through valuable people, through the development of “informed capital” as the first step of a process leading to gains of “substantial freedom”. The investment in a new way of managing our knowledge, driven by innovation, is the true challenge not only for Italy but for all mature democracies. In this perspective, a true inversion of trends means re-launching services to people and health care capable of answering to today’s needs: e.g. the ageing of the population and the changing structure of the family becomes smaller (lower birth rates) and more blended. The great migration from the South (230 million people in transit) call for cross-cutting public policies, *i.e.* in the transnational perspective, because only if we look at eliminating vulnerabilities and poverty globally and thus also considering developing countries can we activate those capabilities promoting human rights on the global scale.

The 2030 Agenda, which re-launches “cooperation” as an instrument for creating development partnerships must be during peace-rebuilding processes, a point that cannot be neglected. Its objectives aim to eliminate by 2030 extreme poverty globally and halve the percentage of women, men and children that live without sustenance ; create political assets at the national, regional and international level to launch greater investments in the fight against poverty, eliminate all forms of malnutrition; double agricultural productivity and the income of smallholders (particularly women forming families through secure access to land and agricultural resources); reduce the global maternal mortality rate to fewer than 70 cases every thousand live births; drastically reduce infant mortality, eliminate

endemic diseases such as AIDS, TB, malaria. Other objective of the Agenda is to acknowledge the need for inclusive and equal education for all; reaching full gender equality; universal access to sustainable energy; support for infrastructures; the promotion of consumption and sustainable production models; the adoption of urgent measures to fight climate change and desertification.

The World's South is the true key to maintaining world balance, while investment in women for the "holistic" consolidation of security is the true measure capable of keeping history and innovation united.