



# ITALY

**SECURITY COUNCIL  
OPEN DEBATE ON “WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY”**

**STATEMENT BY**

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Check against delivery**

Madame President,

I congratulate you on organizing this open debate of the Security Council and commend your commitment to an issue of the utmost importance for the international community. I wish to thank the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General Margaret Wallstrom, and the Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy for their briefings, which gave us a clear picture of the serious challenges in protecting women from the scourge of sexual violence in conflicts.

Madame President,

Italy aligns itself with the statement that will be delivered by the European Union, and wishes to make some additional remarks in a national capacity.

Let me start by expressing our deep appreciation for the resolution adopted today, which Italy is proud to have co-sponsored. By requesting the establishment of monitoring and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence the Security Council has taken an important step forward. Timely and accurate information will enhance the Council's ability to track and deter this heinous crime.

It will still be up to the Council to take the necessary measures to translate these elements into concrete action. Which brings me to an issue that is too often invoked in cases of human rights violations: the impunity of the perpetrators. We must reverse the social dynamics that allow sexual violence to perpetuate itself, moving from the stigmatisation of the victims to the criminalisation of the authors.

This goal can be achieved through different means: adopting sanctions or targeted measures; referring matters to the International Criminal Court when necessary; naming and shaming the perpetrators at every opportunity. We therefore welcome the Council's decision to encourage the Secretary-General to list in his reports the parties who have engaged in patterns of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict. This decision is a step in the right direction.

Madame President,

Conflict-related sexual violence is a threat to security and an impediment to peacebuilding in many parts of the world, and not only the crises areas on the Council's agenda. In today's conflicts, sexual violence is not just "collateral damage" but an actual front-line stratagem. I would focus on two areas we deem particularly important.

First, the need to address sexual violence in peace and mediation processes. If women do not have a say in peace processes, if sexual violence is not addressed in the agreements aimed at ending a conflict, gender-based discrimination and violence will remain embedded in society.

Second, the importance of giving sexual violence systematic consideration in authorizations and renewals of peacekeeping and special political missions. Moreover, when missions are mandated, technical assessments of country situations should include gender expertise.

Madame President,

In 2008, Italy, in its capacity as a Security Council member, was one of the strongest advocates of resolution 1820 on sexual violence in conflict. We also supported the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General. At the national level, we are finalizing a plan of action to implement resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The draft plan includes the protection of women and girls from sexual violence. Specific focus is on the assistance, recovery and psycho-physical rehabilitation of the victims, as well as on special training for our staff deployed on peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions.

In conclusion, Italy remains fully committed to implementing the resolutions of Security Council in the field of women, peace and security, including the important decision taken today.

Thank you, Madame President.