

ITALY AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Since its accession to the United Nations in 1955, Italy has been committed to **strengthening multilateralism** in the belief that cooperation among peoples and nations is key to **promoting global peace, prosperity, sustainable development and human rights** for all.

On June 30 2016 the UN General Assembly elected Italy for the 7th time as non-permanent member of the Security Council, the international body which is entrusted by the UN Charter with the main responsibility for maintaining peace and security.

As an example of European unity and solidarity, Italy and the Netherlands agreed to split the 2017/2018 term in the Security Council, with Italy serving in 2017 and the Netherlands in 2018. The effectiveness, efficiency and continuity of the Council's work are the main pillars of such a cooperation based upon shared European values.

ITALY'S ACTION ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Italy's action on the Security Council is inspired by the pursuit of effective multilateralism to address our common challenges, an inclusive approach and the principle of **solidarity among peoples and nations**.

On the Council, Italy pursues consensus among its members, permanent and elected, on all key issues, while **acting as a bridge towards the broader UN membership** to ensure that the concerns of all Countries are considered.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the **respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all** individuals and the Rule of Law are a key precondition for long-lasting peace, security and sustainable development. In this spirit, we believe that consensus on the Council should be based on human rights protection, taking into account civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. We especially aim at safeguarding women's and children's rights, especially those who are victim of violence and conflict, and at the protection of freedom of religion or belief.



SUSTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY

"Building peace for tomorrow" is Italy's cornerstone and our main drive on the Security Council. As the **top Western contributor of Blue Helmets** and one of the top ten financial contributors to the UN regular and peacekeeping budget, Italy has served in 22 peace operations. Our contribution to UN peace efforts is marked by the professionalism, competence and humanitarian approach of our Blue Helmets.

Our peacekeeping model is focused on an **integrated civilian-military approach**, which puts humanitarian concerns at the forefront, as well as the empowerment of

regional and sub-regional organizations and local communities, and the quest for political solutions and reconciliation.

Italy is committed to ensuring that the UN peacekeeping capabilities are ready to meet the new challenges through **clear and effective mandates**, capable forces and appropriate funding, equipment, and training. As one of the founding signatories of the Kigali Principles on the **Protection of Civilians**, Italy advocates for ensuring that shielding the most vulnerable groups from threats remains among the key goals of UN peacekeeping.

We will further the full implementation of the 2014-2015 peacekeeping review process, with particular emphasis on the **primacy of political solutions**, the adoption of tailored and flexible mandates and the accountability of peacekeepers, especially through a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual abuses.

We aim at advancing a "whole of cycle" approach to crisis prevention and management through an enhanced use of the tools provided by both Chapter VI and VII of the UN Charter. This entails pursuing better coordination with all the actors of peace within the UN system – starting with the Secretary General, the General Assembly and the Peace Building Commission. It also means enhancing **cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations** under Chapter VIII of the Charter, starting with the African Union.

In the belief that **preventing conflicts is the smart choice**, Italy is working to strengthen the Security Council's ability to address emerging crisis and de-escalate potential or relapsing conflicts. We are thus promoting the swift deployment of mediation teams and the adoption of reliable early warning and early action mechanisms to strengthen the UN's capacity to prevent and halt atrocity crimes.

To ensure that post-crisis areas are enabled to achieve sustainable peace, stability and development, we support integrated peace building initiatives and **reconciliation** processes involving all sectors of society, from women and youth, to local communities and religious leaders.

MEETING THE NEW CHALLENGES TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

For the UN to be able to sustain peace in the years to come, its peacekeeping model must be adapted to meet the **upcoming, multidimensional threats** to international stability.



Italy is aware that flexible yet streamlined peacekeeping mandates are key to ensuring that resources and resolve are appropriately directed. Therefore, we foster the revision of mandates with a view to including measures to offset the impact on security of phenomena such as and disorderly flows of refugees and migrants and human trafficking, climate change, and threats to cultural and historical patrimony.

Disorderly flows of migrants and refugees stem from insecurity and poverty and can project instability across countries of transit and destination. UN peace efforts along the whole cycle of peace must take into consideration the influence of instability on civilian communities in order to both protecting civilians and **addressing the root causes of human flows**.

Fully aware of the **challenge posed by climate change to global security**, Italy has strengthened its development policy with specific emphasis on issues of common concern such as adaptation, capacity building, mitigation, and technology transfer. We continue working towards the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and promoting common efforts in all other environmentally related negotiating fora.

On the Security Council, Italy also supports the inclusion in peace operations' mandates of provision for **mitigating the environmental impact** of peacekeeping missions. Meanwhile, we work closely with the UN to identify guidelines and practices to improve UN missions' standards in this sector, including by reinforcing Blue Helmets' training.

Attempts to erase cultural identity are crimes fueling endless cycles of conflict, while illicit trafficking of antiques is an important source of financing for international terrorism. Through the Unite4Heritage Task Force, Italy is actively engaged, alongside UNESCO, in **protecting cultural diversity and the historical** marks of identity in crisis-afflicted areas. On the Security Council, Italy we are promoting for the inclusion of measures for the protection of cultural heritage and stemming trafficking of antiquities in peacekeeping mandates.

THE MEDITERRANEAN, MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The Mediterranean is an area of paramount importance for international peace and security today. Italy therefore continues devoting its utmost attention to the North Africa and the Middle East. Due to its geographical proximity and historical ties with the whole region and its people, Italy furthers its support to the MENA countries towards stabilization and prosperity, in a partnership conducive to tackling common security challenges, from terrorism to irregular migration.

Supporting Libya's legitimate institutions, stabilization and reconciliation is a top priority within our mandate on the Council. We support the mediation efforts undertaken by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and engage with our regional and international



partners inside and outside the Council to boost the full implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement.

Italy promotes a **political solution to the ongoing Syrian grave crisis** under the auspices of the UN Special Envoy. We make full use of our traditional bridging role in order to enhance the ineludible dialogue between the regional and international actors involved in the conflict, and encourage a UN-led transition which ensures humanitarian access and a renewed focus on the fight against terrorist groups, bearing in mind the grave crimes occurred during the Syrian crisis and the need for accountability.

With respect to Iraq, Italy supports on the Security Council the ongoing stabilization and reconciliation efforts.

We adopt the same inclusive approach to help the Security Council putting forward effective solutions to the other regional crises, such as the **conflict in Yemen**.

Similarly, Italy continues supporting the Council's role in the **Middle East Peace Process** between Israel and Palestine, with a view to encourage a meaningful engagement by the international community, so as to help resume direct negotiations between the Parties towards a just and comprehensive peace based on the two-State solution.

The full implementation of the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program** is another priority of Italy's mandate in its capacity as Security Council Facilitator for Resolution 2231.



AFRICA

The Security Council devotes a relevant part of its activities to addressing conflict and crisis situations in Africa. 9 out of the current 16 peacekeeping operations, employing the vast majority of Blue Helmets, are deployed in the continent.

Sub-Saharan Africa is an area of primary focus during Italy's mandate, also in light of the impact of instability in the region on the flows of migrants and refugees, on illicit trafficking and on the spread of terrorist organizations.

In **the Sahel area and Western Africa**, Italy continues working to strengthen institutions and encourage the fight against terrorism, organized crime, human trafficking and drug-dealing. On the Security Council, we engage to advance the implementation of Mali's peace agreement, including by supporting the efforts of MINUSMA to establish a safe environment for institutional reforms, disarmament and reintegration.

Italy spares no efforts to sustain political processes in **the Horn of Africa**. We confirm our traditional commitment in Somalia and contribute to peace and stabilization processes in South Sudan as well as in Darfur and the Abyei region in Sudan. We will leverage the active role we play in regional Organizations such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to increase the effectiveness of initiatives by the Security Council.

We encourage a pacific political transition in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, as well as in the **Central African Republic**, through an inclusive and peaceful political dialogue among all stakeholders, paving the way towards peaceful and credible elections.

We support the Council's efforts to find a solution to the crisis in **Burundi**, with a view to preventing the relapse into ethnic conflict.

In the belief that only African ownership can lead to sustained peace in the continent, we build on our political, economic and cultural ties with the African Countries and the regional organizations, starting with **the African Union**, to promote effective solutions to endemic conflicts in the African continent. We do so by bringing into the Council the same spirit of partnership and collaboration that characterized the first Italy-Africa Conference held in Rome in May 2016.

ASIA

A peace and reconciliation process is essential to **achieving lasting peace in Afghanistan**. Italy puts the experience gained through its longstanding support to the Country at disposal of the United Nations to promote peace, stability and development in Afghanistan, including by promoting the key engagement of the main regional actors.

We carry out in a responsible way our role as Chair of the Sanction Committee for the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, while working closely with Council partners to preserve the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and prevent a dangerous regional escalation of tension and arms race and preempting any negative impact of the sanctions regime on the population

LATIN AMERICA

Italy shares strong **political and cultural bonds with Latin America**. The Italy-Latin America and the Caribbean Conference, held on a bi-annual basis, is the main framework for our cooperation with the region, focusing on themes such as energy challenges, interconnectivity, environmental cooperation, the rule of law and fight against organized crime.

Consistently with this special relationship, Italy devote the highest attention to the Latin American and the Caribbean security issues that will be brought to the Security Council, starting with the peace process in Colombia and the stabilization of Haiti.

EUROPE

Italy continues to play on the Security Council its responsible and proactive role to enhance **Kosovo's** internal stabilization and relaunch its political reconciliation with Serbia. We also reaffirm our longstanding commitment to the stabilization of Bosnia and Herzegovina and our strong support to the country's path towards the European Union.

As a Mediterranean Country and a EU member, Italy attaches the utmost importance to the successful conclusion of **peace talks in Cyprus**. We continue to support the UN Special Envoy and UNFICYP, while providing an added value to the Security Council's effort to facilitate the implementation of the peace agreement for the reunification of the island.



UPHOLDING WOMEN'S ROLE IN UN PEACE EFFORTS

Italy believes that women play an essential role in the promotion of peace and development.

The exclusion of women from peace processes greatly jeopardizes their long term effectiveness and sustainability. The implementation of the "Women, Peace and Security Agenda" is central to Italy's action on the Security Council, especially with a view to **strengthening the role of women** as actors across the whole peace and development cycles.

We promote the inclusion of this goal in peacekeeping missions' mandates, especially to strengthen women's active participation in conflict prevention in the most conflict-afflicted areas, starting with the Mediterranean basin.

TERRORISM

Italy strives to **strengthen consensus** on the need to effectively address the spread of terrorism and to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization. Our effort is based on the Plan of Action of the Secretary General of the United Nations to prevent violent extremism, which leads the way calling for a comprehensive approach to counter terrorism.

Italy is an active member of the International Coalition against Isil/Daesh. We have a leading role in the training of the Iraqi Armed and Security Forces, thus giving an important contribution to the crucial stabilization of Iraq and the broader region. We also promote the Security Council's action to tackle the threat posed by returning foreign fighters.

For Italy fighting terrorism includes directing the Council's attention to the necessity of **identifying and weakening the links between terrorism and criminal activities**, such as human trafficking and smuggling of antiquities, as well as illicit trafficking of arms, which are key financial sources.

Consistently with our aim to sustain truly durable peace, Italy promotes a holistic **approach to countering terrorism**, violent extremism and radicalization, leveraging the key dimensions of culture, development and human rights, to address the roots causes of this global plague.

SANCTIONS

We believe sanctions are a relevant tool in the Security Council's broader and coordinated strategy to counter attempts to challenge global stability. Sanctions offer an effective incentive to **promote the respect of international norms** and the pursuit of political solutions. Therefore, we are working to ensure that sanctions are imposed through a fair process and on the basis of reliable and accurate information, striving to limiting their effects on civilians.

Italy consistently supports the full implementation of sanctions adopted by the Security Council as a tool to promote peace and stability.



A MORE EFFECTIVE AND REPRESENTATIVE SECURITY COUNCIL

Italy spares no efforts to boost the Security Council's ability to timely and effectively tackle new and existing threats to global peace. We also contribute to the improvement of its **working methods**.

Ensuring wide and timely dialogue on all the core Council issues with the broader membership – a key commitment for Italy – will be central to this aim. We strive to enhance the outreach of the Council, including to better leverage synergies with the General Assembly and the UN system as a whole.

We are committed to working with the entire UN membership to **make the Council more democratic, representative, transparent and effective**. We support all initiatives aimed at limiting the use of the power of veto, especially whenever gross violations of human rights, war crimes and crimes against humanity are at stake.

