



# ITALY

**6005<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
“WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY”**

**STATEMENT BY  
THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AMBASSADOR GIULIO TERZI**

**(New York, Tuesday, 29 October 2008)**

Check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important meeting on the implementation of the landmark Resolution 1325. Let me also thank Under Secretary General Le Roy, Special Advisor Mayanja, Executive Director Alberdi, and Ms. Taylor for their statements.

Italy aligns itself with the position expressed by France on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. President,

The adoption of Resolution 1820 last June was a milestone in the Security Council's efforts to protect women and a major step forward in the implementation of Resolution 1325. Last June Resolution clearly states that sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, when used as a war tactic, is a matter of peace and security, and therefore a responsibility of the Security Council. Women cannot participate effectively in the decision-making process unless their security is guaranteed, abuses are prosecuted, and blanket amnesties are off the table.

Tragically, sexual violence continues to be used as a weapon of war to destroy the very fabric of society. The Secretary-General's report foreseen by next June is therefore crucial. We believe that it should include detailed information on sexual violence in conflict situations which are on the Council's agenda, particularly on perpetrators and, more in general, on emerging patterns.

Mr. President,

While 1820 was a major step in implementing the protection pillar of Resolution 1325, action is needed also on other pillars. We thus welcome the President's initiative to focus today's debate on women's participation.

As the Secretary-General indicated in his Report, "In most conflict and post conflict societies women remain excluded from conflict prevention and gender-based early warning indicators are largely ignored." Far too often, women are excluded from negotiating tables in peace processes, and that happens because of lack of political will and of adequate resources.

The participation of women to all phases of conflict resolution and peacebuilding has a clear, vast potential. I think, for example, of the participation

of Somali women as a “sixth clan” in the National Reconciliation Conference; of the key contribution assured by Burundi’s women to the Arusha process. As this example shows, their participation in the peace process since its inception was a main factor in encouraging a relevant segment of Burundi’s civil society to develop remarkable leadership skills, to become a more effective political actor, and to be perceived as a legitimate participant in national recovery efforts.

This is not just a question of how many women are included in a political or decision-making process. It is about enabling them to champion issues that are also vital to their empowerment. This is only possible through the full engagement of civil society and women’s organization; we should at the same time consider their need of resources, such as training and capacity-building programmes.

In this field, the United Nations can contribute to further progress by, for instance, considering how participation of women can be better reflected in peace-keeping missions’ mandates and by providing those missions with needed expertise and resources.

Other practical steps could be equally considered:

- appointment of more women as SRSGs and Special Envoys;
- inclusion of a gender component in all UN peace-keeping and political missions;
- establishment of structured gender expertise in the Department for Political Affairs’ mediation capacities.

In the same light, creating a strengthened and consolidated UN entity for women is of critical importance.

Mr. President,

The Peace Building Commission has proved that it can make a difference in redressing inequalities and creating the conditions for sustainable development on solid, non-discriminatory foundations. It does so through the inclusion of gender perspectives in its Integrated Peace Building Strategies. The Commission must continue to engage women’s organizations in every phase of its work, ensuring their full involvement in the planning, elaboration and monitoring of its integrated strategies.

Mr. President,

Women are key social, political and economic actors in the success of stabilization and rebuilding efforts. At the same time, they are the stakeholders that can face discrimination in these processes. My Government, in its firm commitment to women's rights, would like to confirm on this occasion its commitment to promote the full implementation of Resolution 1325 in all U.N. *fora*.