



*Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri*

DIPARTIMENTO PER LE PARI OPPORTUNITA'

## **1. What measures have been taken to strengthen normative, legal and policy frameworks for the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?**

As reported in the Beijing+25 National Review submitted by Italy to the UN in 2019, the Italian Government has actively participated in the negotiations on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supporting the option that the Agenda addresses directly the challenge of gender equality, while mainstreaming gender equality across the other goals and targets.

At the domestic level the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2017/2030 has the main aim to integrate the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals to the economic, social and environmental domestic programming impacting of national and international policies and actions. The gender perspective is included in it.

The NSDS is organized in five core areas: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. The former four areas mainly cover the domestic dimension; the latter covers principles and purposes of international cooperation, as integrating and qualifying part of Italian foreign policy, draft by Law No. 125/2014. Macro-areas for action - that are reflected in the Partnership Section of the NSDS - have been re-arranged to take into account the integrated nature and the structure of the 17 SDGs and include new sectors for action – such as data for development and domestic resources mobilisation – together with those of more traditional engagement. Each area of the NSDS identifies a system of priorities (National Strategic Choices), delivering strategic goals. The goals are strongly integrated, as they embody and synthesize the most relevant issues emerged from the consultation process. The implementation of the NSDS is tightly interlinked with the existing national programming documents, namely the National Reform Programme and the Economic and Financial Document, as well as with the existing and binding objectives set by the European Semester (i.e. EU2020 targets) which have to be fulfilled and are accounted for.

As it concerns gender equality there are references in several sections of the NSDS, as follows.

The area “People” focuses on the promotion of the social dimension in order to ensure a dignified life for the entire population, so that everyone is enabled to fulfil his or her potential within a healthy environment. This objective can be pursued through a coherent and effective policy that focuses not only on income, but extends to other key dimensions of well-being, targeting selected socio-economic groups such as low-income families, young people and women.

The area “Peace” - strictly linked with the implementation of policies of social protection and poverty reduction outlined in the area “People” - refers to the need to promote peaceful, fair and inclusive societies. The main challenges refer to global changes, in particular regarding the implementation of policies aimed at the inclusion of migrants and asylum-seekers in industrialized countries, promotion of respect for diversity and the fight against discrimination.

In particular the phenomenon of physical, sexual and psychologic violence against women and children is serious and widespread in the Italian territory. Episodes of female killings continue. Furthermore, the current migratory flows cause new social problems, linked both to the need to monitor cases of violence perpetrated against and within migrant communities (for example, female genital mutilation), and to put in place adequate integration and reception policies aimed at guaranteeing the social rights of migrants and asylum seekers, with special focus on unaccompanied minors.

Also the action plan against sexual and gender-based violence as provided by the law against female homicides, establishes a system of multi-level governance to fight these phenomena and support their victims. Furthermore, the Government has arranged a national plan for integration articulated as follows: socio-occupational inclusion, sanitary assistance, linguistic education, family reunification, education and recognition of qualifications.

Within the framework of the above mentioned National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2017/2030 a multi-stakeholder platform has been provided: the body was launched in 2018, to be articulated into 5

Working Groups in order to coordinate the national policies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through a Control Room placed at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, also involving the National Committee for the Sustainable Development and the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Development Cooperation.

At the international level as per the development cooperation and humanitarian aid, Italy continues to promote several initiatives, including financial commitments, to prevent and assist victims of gender-based violence and to enable women's empowerment as defined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related SDGs (namely SDG5), as provided in the recently adopted Programming and orientation Lines 2019-2021. Relevant programs take place in various priority countries, mainly in Afghanistan, the MENA region, Eastern Europe and in Sub-Saharan Africa. More specifically, the Italian Development Cooperation supports through annual voluntary contributions the activities of UN-Women, UNFPA and continues to be one of the major donors of the Joint UNFPA/UNICEF Program, entitled "Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change". Moreover, the Italian Development Cooperation finances projects implemented by humanitarian agencies and civil society Organizations aimed at protecting and assisting women in emergency situations, with a specific focus on Syria and Somalia.

## **2. What actions and investments have been made for financing gender equality and the empowerment of women?**

Italy made important progress in recent years, through legislative acts and guidelines, notably the Directive on Gender Equality and the Budget Act. The Directive aims at an integrated approach to overcome legislative fragmentation through concrete actions rather than formal obligations.

Italy has prioritised work-life balance through exploring tools of flexible working options. Italy has also undertaken a national-level budgeting exercise involving a thorough analysis of disparities of gender in different aspects, and annually conducts a gender assessment of all initiatives undertaken. Italy expressed interest in seeking the GMG's support in tackling issues like accessibility to high-level positions in the public and private sector and sharing insights on practices like gender impact assessment.

## **3. What steps have been taken to bolster women's leadership and women's full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of sustainable development?**

The Minister of Family and Equal Opportunities set up a special task force "Women for a new Renaissance" to envisage measures for emergency response from Covid-19 (by Decree on 12 April 2020). Its twelve members include women academicians, entrepreneurs and managers. Their main tasks are to:

- produce analysis and scientific evidence relating to the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on gender issues
- formulate proposals to increase the percentage of women in all areas of work, to overcome barriers to advancement in career paths, especially in the fastest growing fields (STEM, computer computing, cloud computing, data and artificial intelligence, etc.), to contrast gender stereotypes that prevent women from reaching leadership positions and to build a more inclusive sustainable future for all
- draw up a policy document with the definition of priorities and policies in operational terms to address the challenges for gender equality in all sector and to strengthen the presence and role of women in all the areas examined, with a focus on the social, cultural and economic revival of Italy after the epidemiological emergency from Covid-19.

## **4. What macroeconomic, labour and social policies have been put in place that promote full and productive employment and decent work for women, in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women's employment and economic rights and independence?**

## **5. What response and recovery measures to the COVID-19 pandemic have been taken to improve and expand social protection for women (e.g., healthcare coverage, unemployment benefits, paid sick leave, paid parental leave, maternity benefits, pensions, income support such as cash transfers)?**

The following measures more specifically target gender equality issues by mitigating the impact of the crisis on working women and, in particular, avoiding them to drop out of labour because of childcare or other family responsibilities:

- bonus of EUR 100 to all employees who continue working with incomes below EUR 40 000, proportional to the days of presence at work (a total of EUR 881 million);
- a total sum of EUR 1.3 billion will cover vouchers of EUR 600 (EUR 1 000 for health professionals and police officers) for alternative care arrangements for parents who continue working with children below 12 years of age; otherwise, extended parental leave of 15 days is paid at 50% of their salary, but unpaid for parents with children above 12 years of age;
- paid leave granted to people looking after a disabled family member is extended to 12 days per month.

Safety nets were put in place to support employment and preserve incomes for all categories of workers. Some of these will impact more on women than men, in consideration of the present share of employed by sex in each sector. From this point of view, it is particularly significant that the emergency measures have foreseen a one-off-payment of EUR 600 for the month of March (announced to be extended in April) for self-employed and seasonal workers (almost 5 million people who do not usually benefit from social safety nets, of which a relevant share are women).

Moreover, additional EUR 3 million were assigned to financing shelter houses for women victim of domestic violence to face increased risks of abuse or harassment during the lockdown.

## **6. What actions have been taken to expand the availability and affordability of care services to address the increase in unpaid care and domestic work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., care subsidies, paid leave)?**

As a consequence of the spread of the Covid-19 virus all over the country and considering the subsequent temporary suspension of the provision of child education services and teaching activities in all Italian schools, art. 23 of Decree Law No. 18 of 17 March 2020 (the so-called Cura Italia Decree) introduced an extraordinary leave and bonus for parents, with the aim of supporting them during the period of temporary closure of school activities. Indeed, starting from 5 March 2020, parents working in the private sector with children up to 12 years of age have access to a specific 15-day leave covering 50% of the salary. Both parents can enjoy the leave parents alternatively and only if no other income support measures apply for the family members. Age limits do not apply to children with serious disability certified under Law No. 104/1992.

Furthermore, starting from 17 March 2020, as an alternative to the extraordinary leave, private sector working parents can choose to receive a specific bonus for the purchase of babysitting services amounting to 600 euros. For parents working in the public and private accredited health sector, as well as for the police and the defense personnel employed with anti-Covid tasks, the babysitting voucher is increased to totally 1,000 euros (as for the latter health personnel in hospital could benefit from it according to a ratio of 70% of female workers and 30% of male workers). The above-mentioned measures can be requested for also by foster parents.

## **7. What action has been taken to increase resources and support for women's and civil society organizations as they cope with the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Frequently asked questions (FAQ) on the measures taken by the Italian Government to manage the Covid-19 emergency were published on 11 March 2020 on the website [www.governo.it](http://www.governo.it).

A public call for the financing of urgent interventions to support CAV and shelters in relation to the Covid-19 emergency has been released online in early April 2020. This initiative was part of the measures introduced by the Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family and implemented by the Department for Equal Opportunities to support the work of all those involved in preventing and combating gender-based violence and protecting women who are victims in the current epidemiological emergency. The call has been addressed to Anti-Violence Centres and shelters recognised at regional level managed by women and civil society organizations, which meet the minimum requirements set out in the agreement signed by the Government and Regions the autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano and the local autonomies at the Unified Conference on 27 November 2014. The application procedures have been simplified as much as possible in order to speed up the disbursement of resources.

On 24 March 2020 the new awareness campaign "Libera puoi" was launched by the Department for Equal Opportunities to support women victims of violence during the COVID-19 emergency. The aim is to promote the aforementioned toll-free number 1522 and to give information about the 1522 app, which is available on IOS and Android systems, to allow women to chat with operators and ask for help and information safely, without running additional risks of being heard by their attackers.

**8. What steps have been taken to improve gender-responsive data collection in the context of follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to track and monitor the gender-specific impacts and response measures to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

As reported in the Beijing+25 National Review submitted by Italy to the UN in 2019, particularly in its Annex, in line with the UN Statistics Division the National Institute of Statistics (Istat) was referred as the key-institution entrusted with the task of coordinating the production of indicators for measuring sustainable development and monitoring its objectives. Hence periodically Istat presents an update and an extension of the set of indicators for measuring sustainable development and monitoring its objectives.

The compilation and adoption of the third edition of the Report on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in April 2020 takes place in the presence of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has accelerated the need for a unified vision capable of developing and implementing an appropriate strategy for economic, social and environmental development, paying attention to the interdependencies of the various aspects and oriented towards sustainability.