

**ITALY'S PROGRESS REPORT ON THE COMMITMENTS
MADE AT THE GLOBAL LEADERS' MEETING ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2015.
DELIVERING ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT.**

Italy is strongly engaged in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. Delivering on the commitments announced at the Global Leaders' Meeting has been and remains a key priority. A summary of the measures adopted since September 2015 is presented below. Further details are provided in the Annex.

Over the last year, Italy, also in close cooperation with relevant UN agencies, has continued to support multilateral initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality and the full enjoyment of human rights by women and girls. A strong emphasis has been put on sustaining efforts to eradicate traditional harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriages, both at the national and international levels.

Financial resources allocated to Italian development cooperation initiatives for gender equality and women's empowerment amounted to 22.88 million euros, representing 45.76% of the total amount of funds over a two-year period pledged at the Global Leader's Meeting. Specific areas of intervention included agriculture, food security, and combatting gender-based violence against women.

Progress in the implementation of the Extraordinary Action Plan against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence adopted in July 2015 has steadily been made through actions and fund allocations at both the national and regional levels. A 12-million-euro public Call for Proposals was launched in March 2016 to finance projects to improve shelter and assistance services to women victims of violence and their children, as well as to enhance the local service network. A special paid leave has been introduced for working women victims of violence who attend duly certified protection programmes. Italy continues to promote Initiatives involving men as actors in ending violence against women.

The first meeting of the new Inter-Institutional Steering Committee on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence established by the above Plan was held on 8 September 2016 with the participation of representatives from all state and regional public administrations.

The first National Action Plan against the trafficking and exploitation of human beings was finalized in December 2015 and adopted in February 2016. To date, 13 million euros have been specifically allocated for interventions to protect and socially re-integrate victims of human trafficking.

The Italian Parliament adopted further legislation on gender quotas within state-owned companies and on compulsory paternity leave. A new bill on new flexible working arrangements for public and private sector employees has been tabled in Parliament.

Additional financial resources to facilitate access of women-owned businesses to the banking system have been earmarked and will be rolled out in the coming months.

ANNEX

DELIVERING ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT.

1. Continue to support multilateral initiatives to eliminate harmful practices, especially female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriages.
<p>Italy co-hosted together with UNFPA, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNDP and other countries an event in New York to mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM on 6 February 2016. On the occasion, the Italian Foreign Minister declared: "Ending FGM is a battle we need to win all together, men and women, governments and civil society, families and institutions, in an inclusive way. We will make it. Italy is proud to be at the forefront of this noble endeavour". Italy also contributed to events on female genital mutilation and child early and forced marriages during the 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2016. Italy supported the Ministerial Sub-Regional Consultation for the effective implementation of UNGA resolution n. 32/21 banning Female Genital Mutilation, held in Senegal on 26-27 April 2016.</p> <p>During the 32nd session of the UN Human Rights Council in June 2016, Italy led negotiations on behalf of the EU on said resolution n. 32/21, which it also co-sponsored.</p>
2. Devote new resources, for a total of 50 million euros in the next two years, to maintain gender equality and the full enjoyment of human rights by women and girls at the heart of our development cooperation programmes in partner countries.
3. Continue to closely cooperate with the UN System, in the effort to obtain gender equality and the full empowerment of women. In particular, we will continue to firmly support UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund, by consistently sustaining strong national contributions to their core resources and specific programs.
4. Keep a strong emphasis on rural women in all partner countries where they play a central role in food security and nutrition, as a follow-up to the "Milan Charter", presented during EXPO Milano 2015, and the "Women for Expo" initiative.
5. Devote more resources to developing gender statistics and analyses to carefully measure progress in gender equality and empowerment in partner countries.
<p>The Italian Development Cooperation has supported initiatives worth 22.88 million euros, which is the equivalent of 45.76% of the two-year commitment made at the Global Leader's Meeting.</p> <p>The attached table, referring to the 2016 budget, contains data on initiatives having "gender equality and women's empowerment" as the "principle objective" for a number of areas of intervention, such as agriculture and food security; gender-based violence against women and sexual and reproductive health and rights; human development (namely within the realm of governance), civil society and local development; support for endogenous, inclusive and sustainable development of the private sector. These data do not include humanitarian/emergency initiatives or others where gender equality and women's empowerment is only a "significant objective" (and not a "principle objective").</p> <p>Italy's new bilateral and multilateral contributions are divided as follows: 9.53 million euros for Sub-Saharan Africa (Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan); 3.95 million euros for the MENA region (Egypt, Palestine, Tunisia); 2 million euros for the Asian region (Afghanistan and Myanmar); 2 million euros for the Latin America/Caribbean region (Bolivia).</p> <p>New Italian core contributions to UN Agencies amount to 5.4 million euros: 1.8 million euros for UNFPA; 1.8 million euros for UN Women; and 1.8 million euros for the UNFPA/UNICEF programme on female genital mutilation.</p>
6. Earmark resources for actions aimed at eradicating all forms of violence against women and develop new initiatives involving men as key actors in ending violence against women.

<p>The Extraordinary Action Plan against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence provides for the allocation of about 76 million euros over the 2014-2016 period to fund regional and national actions combatting sexual and gender-based violence. Within this framework, a 12-million-euro public Call for Proposals was launched on 8 March 2016 to finance projects aimed at improving shelter and assistance services to women victims of violence and their children, as well as enhancing the local service network.</p> <p>Italy has also launched the awareness-raising campaign on the elimination of violence against women addressing men and boys, entitled “FIVE MEN – Fight Violence against Women” (http://www.cosedauomini.eu/index.php?lang=en).</p> <p>Moreover, with a view to further involving men in the prevention and fight against this phenomenon, the most representative associations for the recovery of perpetrators will be involved, together with other civil society and women’s associations, in the activities of the National Observatory on Violence, established under the Action Plan.</p>
<p>7. Implement Italy’s National Extraordinary Action Plan against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, adopted in July 2015, and regularly collect statistics on all forms of gender-based violence.</p>
<p>The Italian Government is currently in the process of developing a specific national database that will allow to appropriately measure violence against women through the collection of existing and new data coming from all involved public administrations on, inter alia, the relationship between victims and perpetrators. This has the purpose of enhancing cooperation between central and local administrations, harmonizing data collection methods and avoiding fragmentation. In keeping with the approach outlined in the Action Plan, a special paid leave has been introduced for working women victims of violence who attend duly certified protection programmes.</p>
<p>8. Adopt by the end of 2015 and implement Italy’s first National Action Plan against the trafficking and exploitation of human beings, providing for Italy’s first allocation of adequate resources to finance multi-annual interventions for the protection and social integration of victims.</p>
<p>The first National Action Plan against the trafficking and exploitation of human beings was finalized in December 2015 and adopted by the Council of Ministers on 26 February 2016. The Action Plan aims to identify multi-annual intervention strategies for the prevention and fight against these phenomena, as well as measures to increase public awareness; social prevention, emergence and social integration of victims; and to coordinate joint international actions, with a view to strengthening and promoting cooperation between Italy, international organizations working on human trafficking and labour exploitation (IOM, ILO, etc.), and countries involved in these phenomena.</p> <p>Allocations for interventions to protect and socially re-integrate victims of human trafficking currently amount to 13 million euros.</p>
<p>9. Ensure that all health policies address gender issues and strengthen efforts to prevent and eradicate child, early and forced marriages, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices having serious implications for the sexual and reproductive health of girls and women.</p>
<p>In keeping with Law No. 7 of 9 January 2006 establishing “provisions concerning the prevention and prohibition of female genital mutilation”, Italy continues to fund local projects aimed at: 1) facilitating the social integration of women and children victims or potential victims of female genital mutilation; 2) providing specific training courses for professionals working in this field or in other related sectors, to facilitate the relations between institutions and the African migrant population; 3) promoting information and awareness-raising activities. The total amount of resources allocated to this project is 3 million euros, which have already been distributed to the Italian Regions for the implementation of their activities.</p>

<p>In 2015 the Italian Government finalized a quantitative and qualitative assessment of forced marriages in Italy. The national survey report on forced marriages aims to provide estimates on this practice in Italy; and to contribute to elaborating strategies and further actions for its prevention and eradication.</p>
<p>10. Adopt new national legislation to introduce the legal requirement for “gender quotas” also in the non-elective bodies established in public administration.</p>
<p>The principle of gender balance has been strengthened within state-owned companies. The State-Owned Companies Law (Law No. 175/2016) provides for the expansion of the gender quota to include Chief Executives for at least one-third of the total number of appointments made during the year.</p> <p>The Italian Government is currently examining the issue of introducing gender quotas in the non-elective bodies of public administration.</p>
<p>11. Take new actions to overhaul the organization of work, adopting flexible forms of work (smart-working), without penalizing the professional development of women and supporting the work - life balance.</p>
<p>New measures had already been adopted in 2015 (Art. 14 of Law No. 124/2015) for telecommuting and finding innovative ways of organizing work and time in public administration. Public administration offices will apply these new measures through their specific internal regulations.</p> <p>A new draft law introducing further flexible working arrangements for employees of the public and private sectors has been tabled in Parliament.</p>
<p>12. Promote women’s entrepreneurship and self-employment by building on current financial instruments and access to credit.</p>
<p>An additional 4 million euros have been earmarked and will be disbursed in the coming months for what is known as the “Special Section” of the Central Guarantee Fund for SMEs, a public guarantee mechanism which aims to facilitate access to the banking system for women-owned businesses.</p>
<p>14. Finance and launch national awareness campaigns to encourage fathers to take a more active role in child care.</p>
<p>Law No. 208 adopted in December 2015 provides for the extension of both compulsory and optional paternity leave also for 2016. Art. 1 of the Law provides for the increase of compulsory paternity leave from 1 to 2 days. In this regard, the Italian Government is planning to carry out national awareness campaigns to encourage the use of parental leaves by working fathers.</p>

ITALIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATON INITIATIVES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT - YEAR 2016 (in million euros)			
MULTILATERAL			
UN/CORE&PROGRAMS	AMOUNT	TOTAL	
UNWOMEN	1.8		
UNFPA	1.8		
UNFPA/UNICEF FGM	1.8		
REGION			
ASIA			
COUNTRY	BILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	CONTRIBUTION
Afghanistan	-	UNFPA (1.0)	1.0
Myanmar	-	UNFPA (1.0)	1.0
TOTAL			2.0
LATIN AMERICA			
COUNTRY	BILATERAL	MULTIATERAL	CONTRIBUTION
Bolivia	-	UNWOMEN (1.0)	1.0
Bolivia	-	UNFPA (1.0)	1.0
TOTAL			2.0
MENA			
COUNTRY	BILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	CONTRIBUTION
Egypt	-	UNFPA (1.0)	1.0
Palestine	1.5	UNWOMEN (0.5)	2.0
Tunisia	0.95	-	0.95
TOTAL			3.95
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA			
COUNTRY	BILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	CONTRIBUTION
Ethiopia	-	UNFPA (0.6)	0.6
Djibouti	-	UNFPA (0.4)	0.4
Kenya	-	UNWOMEN (0.5)	0.5
Mozambique	5 (soft loan) + 0.07 (grant)	-	5.07
Senegal	0.1	UNWOMEN (0.5)	0.6
Somalia	1.66	UNWOMEN (0.3)	1.96
Sudan	-	WHO (0.4)	0.4
TOTAL			9.53
TOTAL YEAR 2016 (in million euros)			
MULTILATERAL		13.6	
BILATERAL		9.28	
TOTAL		22.88 (45.76% of the 50 million euros pledged)	