



I T A L Y

HIGH LEVEL EVENT

**GLOBAL LEADERS' MEETING ON GENDER EQUALITY AND
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: A COMMITMENT TO ACTION**

STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

HON. MATTEO RENZI

(NEW YORK, 27 SEPTEMBER 2015)

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Mr. President, Dear colleagues,

When we adopted the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, we pledged to leave no one behind. Despite considerable progress, much remains to be done. The Beijing Platform of Action remains our blueprint for advancing women's rights and build a better and more sustainable future for everyone.

Mr. President, Dear colleagues,

Italy remains fully committed to the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action.

And Italy supports fully the commitments taken collectively at the European level.

In addition to this, I am very pleased to announce today that Italy will:

1. Continue to support multilateral initiatives to eliminate harmful practices, especially female genital mutilations and child, early and forced marriages.
2. Devote new resources, amounting to up to 50 million Euros in the next two years, for maintaining gender equality and the full enjoyment of human rights by women and girls at the heart of our development cooperation programs in partner countries.
3. Continue to closely cooperate with the UN System, in the efforts towards attaining gender equality and the full empowerment of women. In particular, we will continue to strongly support UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund, by maintaining high levels of 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 the EXPO Milan 2015, and the "Women for Expo" initiative.
5. Devote more resources for developing gender statistics and analyses to carefully measure the progress towards the achievement of the objectives in the field of gender equality and empowerment in partner countries .

Mr. President, Dear colleagues,

Italy also commits, at national level, to:

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.
7. Implement the Italian National Extraordinary Plan against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, adopted in July 2015, and regularly collect statistics on all forms of gender-based violence.
8. Adopt by the end of this year and implement Italy's first National Action Plan against

Trafficking in and Serious Exploitation of Human Beings and, within this framework, allocate for the first time in Italy adequate resources to finance multiannual interventions for the protection and social integration of victims.

9. Ensure that all health policies address gender issues and strengthen efforts to prevent and eradicate child, early and forced marriages, female genital mutilations and other harmful practices having serious implications for sexual and reproductive health of girls and women.

10. Adopt new national legislation to introduce the legal requirement for “gender quotas” also in the non-elective bodies established within the public administration.

11. Adopt new actions to redesign the organization of work and experience flexible forms of work (smart-working), not penalizing the professional development of women and supporting work - family life balance.

12. Promote women entrepreneurship and self-employment by strengthening the current financial instruments and access to credit.

14. Finance and launch national awareness campaigns to encourage fathers to take a more active role in child care.

Mr. President, Dear colleagues,

The Beijing Platform of Action expects us to build a world where women and girls can enjoy their rights and exercise their freedoms, are free from violence and discrimination, take full part in political and economic decision-making, are able to go to school and earn equal pay for equal work.

The time to act to this end is now.

Thank you.

