



**Twenty-fifth anniversary of the  
Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the  
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)**

**Guidance note for comprehensive national-level reviews**

**ITALY**

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABI	Italian Banking Association
AGCOM	National Communications Authority
ANPAL	National Agency for Active Labour Market Policies
CONI	Italian Olympic Committee
CONSOB	Italian Companies and Exchange Commission
Corecom	Regional Communication Committee
CSOs	Civil society organizations
CUG	Committee for the Protection of Gender Equality
DEO	Department for Equal Opportunities
DGIMM	Directorate-General for immigration and integration policies
GBV	Gender-based Violence
ISEE	Indicator of the Economic Situation
ISTAT	National Institute for Statistics
LEA	Essential Levels of Assistance
MWMN	Mediterranean Women Mediators Network
NAP	National Action Plan
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
PAC	National Programme for Action and Cohesion
PAL	Local Action Plans
PES	Public Employment Services
PNSCIA	National Programme for the Care Services to Childhood and Dependent Elderly People
RAI	National Broadcasting Service
REI	Minimum income for inclusion
RSC	Roma and Sinti Communities
SIA	Support for Active Inclusion
SMEs	Small and medium enterprises
THB	Trafficking of human beings
UAMs	Unaccompanied minors
UNAR	National Racial Discrimination Office

## INTRODUCTION

The present national review illustrates the progress of Italy in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action over the last 5 years.

The structure of the national review is in line with the guidelines set out by UN Women to this scope.

The Department for Equal Opportunities at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers has taken the lead in involving all the competent Ministries to receive complete and updated information about positive results and challenges concerning the key thematic areas under attention for the compilation of the national review: the Department for Family Policies at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, the Ministry of Education, University and Research, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Environment; also the National Equality Councilor and the National Institute for Statistics were included in this exercise.

## Section One: Priorities, achievements, challenges and setbacks

### **1. What have been the most important achievements, challenges and set-backs in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years?**

In answering this question, please explain why your country considers these important, how it has addressed them, the challenges encountered and the factors that have enabled progress or led to set-backs in each case (3-5 pages).

Please see also Question n. 8.

In recent years, Italy has been continuing its efforts to strengthen women's rights and promote gender equality.

As part of its efforts to promote fundamental rights and freedoms, particular attention has been paid to interventions on **equal access between women and men to elected offices**, affecting electoral systems at different levels (national, regional, local and European Parliament).

In the Italian legal system there are several national and regional laws aimed at promoting the **participation of women in politics** and access to elected offices, issued in compliance with Arts. 51, first para. and 117, seventh para. of the Constitution. In particular, in the last legislatures, the Parliament has approved regulatory measures to promote gender balance within local, European and national elective assemblies (Law No. 215/2012 for municipal elections; Law No. 56/2014 for elections of metropolitan and provincial councils; Law No. 65/2014 for EU elections; Law No. 20/2016 for elections of regional councils; Law No. 165/2017 for elections to the Parliament). Promotional measures for equal opportunities have also been introduced in the most recent legislations concerning the discipline of political parties.

The issue of **gender equality in the workplace** has also been the subject of many legislative initiatives aimed at recognising equal rights and greater protection for working women. In this direction many measures have been introduced to promote women's access to decision-making processes in the economic sector, to promote the work life balance (also through the introduction of smart-working, a bonus for babysitting services) and support for parenting, provisions to combat the so-called blank resignation and the introduction of a special leave for women victims of gender-based violence.

Since 2012, Italy is witnessing a significant revolution in women's leadership, thanks to the implementation of Law No. 120/2011, which introduced the requirement to equitable representation of gender in the organs of management and control of listed companies and, in 2013, in those of the public companies. Following the entry into force of the law, the percentage of women in the management boards of listed companies, equal to 6% before the legislation, now stands at 33,5%, exceeding the one in three quota required by law. Equally important is the increase in public companies, where the presence of women in the boards has increased by 75% in about five years, approaching the share of one-third (32.1%). The law actually broke the glass ceiling lasted years, proving to be an effective tool for the purpose of increasing female presence in the apical positions and, as an additional consequence, for the improvement of corporate performance. In 2018 an inter-institutional Observatory was established by a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Department for Equal Opportunities at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the CONSOB and the Italian National Bank to promote the concrete female participation to boards and to monitoring the implementation of Law No. 120/2011 through data collection and analysis by the same Observatory.

For the purpose to foster self-employment opportunities for women, the Italian government, starting from 2013, has launched a significant initiative to promote female entrepreneurship by providing a

public guarantee to cover financial transactions aimed at the activities carried out by small and medium-sized female enterprises.

This initiative has proceeded to the removal of the difficulties of access to credit, which is the main problem that women encounter in undertaking business and self-employment activities.

In order to increase the participation of women in employment, promote the work-life balance, the Italian Government has pursued its commitment to promote actions aimed at redefining the organization of work and to experiment new forms works (as smart-working) that do not penalize women's career paths that allow them to balance work and family life.

In the knowledge that the under-representation of women in the **fields of science and research**, especially in top positions, limits the potential for research and development and is an brake on the economies of countries, Italy has undertaken a series of initiatives to raise awareness of the new generations, encouraging the access of female students to the scientific-technological, engineering and mathematical (STEM).

With regard to the issue of **violence against women and girls**, after the ratification of the Istanbul Convention in 2013, Italy adopted an Extraordinary action plan against sexual and gender-based violence, which established a system of multi-level governance of public policies to combat the phenomenon and support victims, through a total allocation of 40 million euros.

In order to further strengthen and reaffirm its concrete commitment to women, the Italian Government has worked, in collaboration with civil society, on the elaboration of a new National Strategic Plan on male violence against women for the period 2017-2020.

The objective of the Strategic Plan, in its operational dimension, is to provide a comprehensive and multidisciplinary response to the needs of women victims of violence, always ensuring that central and local institutional actors as well as the third sector act in its best interest.

The Strategic Plan represents a good practice, in line with the activities carried out and being implemented by the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, aimed in particular at strengthening the network of support to women beneficiaries of assistance (territorial services, anti-violence centers and shelters), to create an integrated system of collection and processing of data on the phenomena, to raise awareness and inform in a general and targeted way on gender-based violence as well as to educate the younger generations and to train operators who act in support of women who have been the victims of violence.

**2. Which of the following have been the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country over the past five years through laws, policies and/or programmes? (please check relevant categories)**

- Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice
- Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls
- Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security
- Eliminating violence against women and girls
- Access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- Political participation and representation
- Right to work and rights at work (e.g. gender pay gap, occupational segregation, career progression)
- Women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises
- Unpaid care and domestic work / work-family conciliation (e.g. paid maternity or parental leave, care services)
- Gender-responsive social protection (e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)
- Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, energy, transport etc.)



- Strengthening women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability
- Gender-responsive budgeting
- Digital and financial inclusion for women
- Gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience building
- Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes
- Other

*Please provide brief reflections on how your country has addressed these priorities (3 – 5 pages).*

### **Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls**

Women represent an under-utilised powerful source in contemporary societies and economies. Bringing women's labour force participation on an equal footing with men would lead to an increase in the GDP. Moreover, the economic benefit of women's inclusion is even greater in sectors where labour demand is still unsatisfied, such as the STEM field, where women are particularly under-represented.

Impact on the education system, in order to encourage girls to pursue careers with a traditional male majority, is the starting point for a required trend reversal to counter the under-representation of women in strategic and crucial sectors for economic growth.

With the aim of bridging the gap in scientific subjects and spreading an increasingly inclusive culture in Italy, in 2016 the initiative "IN SUMMER THE STEMS LEARN - Summer Camps of Science, Mathematics, Informatics and Coding" was launched, promoted and implemented by the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, University and Research.

The main objective of this initiative was to bring primary and secondary school students closer to the study of STEM subjects through free and innovative training activities. Furthermore the initiative sets the scope of promoting the reconciliation of life-work times, encouraging educational institutions to keep their premises open for training initiatives for at least two weeks during the summer period. In addition it has had the aim of encouraging the integration of disadvantaged people through a greater social inclusive approach.

Involving students aged from 6 to 13 in the realization of projects, the schools have been able to experiment pioneering training benefiting from the collaboration with public and private subjects highly qualified in STEM subjects (Universities, public and private bodies, research centers, museums, cultural foundations and companies): a list of more than 200 actors was compiled including all those stakeholders interested in collaborating with the Department for Equal Opportunities in this field.

Thanks to the first edition of the initiative, more than 200 schools have received funding for a total of 2 million euros for the organization of summer camps in the school year 2017 in more than 100 Italian cities throughout the country. In total, more than 2,000 laboratory days and more than 8,000 hours of training were provided to more than 6,000 students (of whom at least 60% were women). In addition, about 400 partners were involved, including many of the main Italian universities, many companies, as well as foundations, museums and research institutions.

In view of the success achieved in 2017, the initiative was replicated in 2018. With a budget of about 3 million euros, it was possible to finance about 300 schools throughout Italy for the organization of summer camps aimed at students in 2018 and 2019 in STEM subjects. In particular, the total estimated involvement is about 18,000 students (of which at least 60% are girls).

### **Eliminating violence against women and girls**

Since 2015 Italy has developed a strategic approach on violence against women and girls supported with adequate human and financial resources.

The Extraordinary National Action Plan against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence 2015-2017 established a multi-level governance framework of public policies for combating the phenomenon and supporting its victims. A systematic funding mechanism was created to sustain the work of new anti-violence centers and shelters all over the national territory and the strengthening of those already existing, through a total allocation of 10 million euros per year and, starting from 2018, of 30 million euros each year. So far the number of shelters in Italy has increased from 163 in 2013 to 258 in 2017, as well as the number of anti-violence centers, which has grown from 188 in 2013 to 296 in 2017.

To further strengthen and reaffirm its concrete commitment towards women, the Italian Government has worked on the elaboration of a new National Strategic Plan on Male Violence against Women for 2017-2020. The structure of the aforementioned Plan follows the so-called "4 Ps" of the Istanbul Convention: Prevention; Protection and Support; Prosecution and Punishing; Integrated Policies.

This strategic document promotes a multilevel governance based on the interaction and responsibility of each central, regional and local administration.

Two main bodies have been entrusted with the objective to draw up an operational plan of the above mentioned actions: a Control Room to define the governmental strategy; a technical committee for the preparation of operational plan proposals developed according to the directions of the Control Room.

The operational Plan, being flexible and dynamic in nature indicates concrete actions to implement the objectives contained in the Strategic Plan. It also indicates the financial resources that the central and territorial Administrations have declared to allocate to this end, making them responsible in this context. It is on-going the assessment about the creation of new emergency facilities, the so-called safe houses, for the immediate and timely assistance for women victims of violence.

On the occasion of the International Day against male violence against women, it was launched a new relevant awareness-raising campaign, entitled #lapartitaditutti.

### **Political participation and representation**

Over the last few years, a number of actions have been taken at national level to improve gender equality in political decision-making. As a result of these measures, the number of women working in political institutions has increased considerably.

This increase was confirmed by the recent elections of 4 March 2018. 34% of new parliamentarians are women: this is the highest percentage in Republican history.

The current legislature sees more and more women elected, both in the Parliament, with the peak of a trend that has lasted since the last ten, in which the representation of women in both Chambers has always grown. In percentage terms, the presence of women in the last ten years has increased from 17.2% to 34.62% of the current legislature.

Among the legislative measures recently adopted by the Italian Government and aimed at improving the equal participation of women and men in political decision-making processes, the following ones are worth of mentioning:

- Law No. 165 of 3 November 2017 on "Changes to the system of election of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate of the Republic. Delegates to the Government for the determination of uninominal and plurinominal constituencies", which provides for a series of specific provisions on gender representation and establishes, among other things, the principle of gender alternation in the lists of candidates for each Plurinominal College for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Republic. The law also establishes that, within the Uninominal Colleges, neither sex can be represented to a greater extent than 60%.

- Law No. 65 of 22 April 2014, which lays down provisions for the election of Members of the European Parliament, and in particular establishes the principle of an adequate composition of the lists of candidates, as well as of 'triple gender preference'. Under this law, the voter may express up to 3 preferences. In the case of multiple preference, the same preference must be given to candidates of a different sex, otherwise the third preference will be cancelled.

- Law No. 56 of 7 April 2014 on "Provisions on metropolitan cities, provinces, unions and mergers of municipalities", which establishes that in the junctions of municipalities with a population of more than 3,000 inhabitants, neither sex may be represented to an extent of less than 40 percent, with arithmetical rounding.

### **Unpaid care and domestic work / work-family conciliation (e.g. paid maternity or parental leave, care services)**

In recent times relevant legislative measures have been introduced in the field of reconciliation of work-family times.

#### **- Legislative Decree No. 80 of 15 June 2015 (Conciliation Decree)**

Legislative Decree No. 80 of 15 June 2015 provides for measures to reconcile the needs of care, life and work, so far amending Consolidated Act on the protection and support of motherhood and fatherhood referred to in Legislative Decree No. 151 of 26 March 2001, introducing measures aimed at protecting motherhood for a more flexible use of parental leave and opportunities for reconciliation for all workers.

More specifically, it provides for:

1. The possibility of taking advantage of optional parental leave no longer up to the child's 8th birthday, but up to the age of 12 with a salary of 30% of the salary up to the child's 6th birthday;
2. The possibility of taking advantage of parental leave based on hours;
3. The possibility of taking part-time leave as an alternative to parental leave;
4. Entitlement for those workers listed in the separate management system, to a maternity allowance even in the event of non-payment of social security contributions by the employer.
5. Facilities for teleworking. Teleworkers, in fact, are not counted within the limits provided by laws and contracts for the application of particular regulations and institutions.
6. Leave for women who are victims of gender-based violence and are included in duly certified protection pathways. In fact, it is possible for female employees of public or private employers, with the exception of domestic workers, as well as for female employees with coordinated or continuous collaboration relationships, to abstain from work for a maximum of three months for reasons related to these paths, guaranteeing them remuneration and other kind of support.

Art. 25 of the aforementioned Legislative Decree No. 80/2015, as reviewed by the Stability Law 2016, also has identified resources to be allocated on an experimental basis for the three-year period 2016-2018, for the promotion of reconciliation between professional and private life.

In its implementation by Decree of 12 September 2017 of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, in agreement with the Minister of the Economy and Finance, the criteria and methods for the use of these resources were defined, amounting to 109,800,000.00 euros for the two-year period 2017-2018 (55.200,000.00 euros for 2017 and 54.600,000.00 euros for 2018), on the basis of the guidelines drawn up by a special Control room, established pursuant to para. 3 of Art. 25 by Decree of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies of 25 July 2016, which carried out a preliminary analysis and study on the subject.

In particular the Decree provides for the financing of social security relief for companies that, within the framework of second-level collective bargaining, have confirmed the introduction of at least two innovative measures to reconcile professional and private life. In order to allow access to the benefit, the areas of intervention (parental support, organisational flexibility, company welfare) and the related

reconciliation measures have been specifically defined in the Decree to be properly transposed into company collective agreements in order to qualify for contribution relief.

**- The Reform of the Public Administration (the so-called "Madia Reform")**

Art. 14 of Law No. 124/2015 defines measures to promote the reconciliation of living and working times in the public administration to avoid penalisation in the professional career by means of mechanisms that favour a flexible work organisation no longer focused on physical presence but on measurable results, i.e. telework and new spatial and temporal alternative solutions to protect parental care.

In order to reconcile the living and working times of employees the aforementioned Article moreover provides that public administrations shall proceed to enter into agreements with nurseries and kindergartens and to make available to their employees parenting useful support services.

To this scope in 2017 the Directive of the President of the Council of Ministers containing guidelines for the implementation of paras. 1 and 2 of Art. 14 of Law No. 124 of 7 August 2015 and guidelines containing rules on the organization of work aimed at promoting the reconciliation of living and working times of employees was issued.

The Directive and the guidelines contain indications concerning the organisation of work and the management of personnel in order to promote the reconciliation of the living and working times of employees, promote organisational well-being and ensure the exercise of the rights of workers. Particular attention is given to organisational aspects, technological infrastructures, performance measurement and evaluation, as well as to health and safety at work.

- **Law No. 81 of 14 June 2017** provides for measures for the protection of non-business self-employed work and measures to encourage flexible articulation in the times and places of employment. This is an important step in the regulatory context of smart work because, for the first time, a defining regulatory framework is being drawn up for the more than 300,000 smart-workers, who are already experiencing smart work both in the public and private sectors.

In this framework the Department for Equal Opportunities is involved in the "Agile" Work Project for the Future of PA: Innovative Practices for the Reconciliation of Life/Work under the NAP "Governance and Institutional Capacity" 2014-2020.

With specific reference to smart work, it should be noted that the Budget Law 2019 (Art. 1, para. 486) provides for the obligation for employers to give priority to employment to mothers in the three-year period following the end of maternity leave and to parents caregivers in terms of encouraging smart-working.

### **Gender-responsive budgeting**

It has been widely demonstrated that persistent inequalities between women and men have significant impacts on economic growth, demographic trends, individual and social well-being. It is therefore becoming increasingly urgent to incorporate a gender equality perspective into decision-making processes and government instruments.

In Italy, on 16 June 2017, the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers was introduced, in agreement with the Minister of the Economy and Finance, establishing a general Methodology of gender budgeting for reporting purposes, also taking into account the experience already gained in the budgets of local authorities.

The introduction of a gender perspective in the State budget in Italy takes place in a context in which some experiences have already been gained at local level and in the field of performance management practices of some public administrations.

The Decree establishes the start of the experimentation with the preparation of a gender budget referred to the State Report for the year 2016, establishing the methodology that will be followed also for the next State Report 2017.

The subjects involved are the individual Responsibility Centers of the central State Administrations, including their peripheral structures, and of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, as active subjects of budgetary policies and holders, collectors and providers of data, as well as the Department of General State Accounting, the Department of Finance, the Department of General Affairs of the Ministry of Economy and Finance for the data and methodologies common to all central administrations.

The analysis of the budget from a gender perspective is a complex tool aimed, on the one hand, at identifying the resources allocated and disbursed in favour of equal opportunities for men and women (within and outside the administration) and, on the other hand, to verify the impacts of interventions on men and women, in terms of money, services, time and unpaid work.

Gender budgeting aims to achieve greater transparency on the allocation of budgetary resources and their impact on men and women. Men and women are, in fact, differently influenced by budgetary decisions not only in relation to specific policies, but also in relation to their different socio-economic situations, individual needs and social behaviour.

Gender budgeting can provide a representation of state budget expenditure reclassified from a gender perspective, a set of statistical indicators to monitor actions taken to affect gender inequalities and their association with the budget structure, as well as an analysis of the gender impact of major tax policy measures.

**3. Over the past five years, have you taken specific measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination? (please check relevant categories)**

- Women living in remote and rural areas
- Indigenous women
- X Racial, ethnic or religious minority women
- Women living with disabilities
- Women living with HIV/AIDS
- X Women with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities
- Younger women
- Older women
- X Migrant women
- X Refugee and internally displaced women
- Women in humanitarian settings
- X Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses (2 pages max.).*

**Racial, ethnic or religious minority women**

According to data recorded by the Contact Centre of the National Office against Racial Discrimination (UNAR) as for the 2016, a total of 2.936 cases were reported to UNAR. Out of 2.652 cases that were

considered as discriminatory acts and conducts, 69.4 % fell to “ethnic-racial” ground, followed by persons with disabilities (16.4%), sexual orientation (8,5 %) and discrimination on the ground of the age (4.7 %). In 2017, a total of 3.909 cases were reported to UNAR (almost 1000 more than in 2016). Out of 3.574 cases that were considered as discriminatory acts and conducts, 82 % belong to “ethnic-racial” ground followed by sexual orientation (9.1%), persons with disabilities (4.4%) and discrimination on the ground of the age (2.4%). According to the most recent data, in 2018, 4.273 were registered. Out of 3.977 that were considered as discriminatory acts and conducts, 70.5 % fell to “ethnic-racial” ground, followed by sexual orientation (7.7 %), persons with disabilities (5.6%) and discrimination on the ground of the age (4.0%).

### **Women with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities**

In 2012 Italy joined the Council of Europe programme “Combating discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity”, with UNAR acting as the national focal point and tasked with the development of the LGBT National Strategy adopted in 2013.

In recent years, doctrine has highlighted areas where the legislative *vacuum* remains. Along these lines mention has to be made of the judgment of the Constitutional Court No. 138/2010 (envisaging equality of treatment between married couples regardless of their sex); the support from the Italian Government to the first national strategy to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in compliance with the project initiated by the Council of Europe for the implementation of the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers CM/REC 5 (2010).

### **Migrant women**

Migrants represent 25% of the agriculture workforce, of which 7% are women, mostly with temporary job (80%), generally connected to seasonal harvest, and mainly working in the Centre-South of Italy (60%), with higher percentages in Calabria, Apulia and Campania Regions. Most migrant women working in agriculture are young (47% aged less than 40) and wishing to change work due to low salaries.

In 2015, to combat irregularities in the agricultural sector - which affect mainly women and migrants, the Government has established the Network for the quality agricultural job, which certifies the quality of agricultural farms.

Moreover the Parliament passed Law No. 199/2016 in October 2016 to fight against undeclared work and labour exploitation in agriculture (“Legge sul Caporalato”), which extends the objectives of the Fund for Trafficking of Human Beings (THB) victims under Act No. 228/2003 also to victims of illegal recruitment and labour exploitation, including assistance and social integration/protection programs. Within the rural policy framework women’s participation in Regional Rural Programs accounts for about 32% and is focused on measures to increase human capital through educational and informational activities, strengthening the competitiveness, and facilitating generational exchange or new agricultural farms. Under the Programme of activities of the National Rural Network (2014-2020), the Italian Government, in collaboration with research agencies (CREA, ISMEA) is committed to promote several measures such as the project on “Female job, juvenile entrepreneurship, first establishment in agriculture”, that is aimed at awareness-raising and at valuing and exchanging best practices.

Within the 2012 EIF annual Programme the project “Autonomy and integration for young foreign women” was launched in order to support the autonomy of particularly vulnerable migrants: unaccompanied minors aged 16–17 and young women under 24 at risk of social exclusion. The project

involved 380 young women. Furthermore resources from the European Social Fund have been allocated to facilitate access of migrant women to the labour market.

The project Malaika (concluded in 2014) was financed by ESF and the European Fund for the Integration of TCNs and promoted by the Directorate-General for immigration and integration policies (DGIMM) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies. It was centred on the development of innovative models aimed at supporting the autonomy and empowerment of young migrant women, e.g., unaccompanied minors (16-17 years old) and young women (up to 24 years old) at risk of social exclusion. Actions included the development of personalized paths, based on sets of integrated services, aimed at social, education and labour inclusion (including legal assistance, intercultural mediation, psychological support, assistance in the search for a house, job orientation, supporting the access to labour market, skills profiling and skills enhancing). 17 territories were involved across 10 Italian regions. 350 young migrant women were involved in the project. Results related to the replicability of Malaika model include the publication of a handbook concerning the multi-disciplinary approach to the take-in-charge of migrant young women.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policies is about to start a project in collaboration with Unioncamere, aimed at promoting migrant entrepreneurship in Italy. A first action concerns the development of an Observatory on social, economic and financial inclusion of such enterprises, with a web platform and a specific focus on gender (e.g., female enterprises/entrepreneurs). A second actions aims at favouring the creation, development, and strengthening of migrant enterprises while assuring gender equality through specific measures (e.g., a constant focus on gender will characterize all programs and services targeted to entrepreneurs). The goal is, thus, also to favour the development of female entrepreneurship.

Concerning the role of sport in integration processes, in the framework of a programme agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the CONI-Italian Olympic Committee started in 2014, recent actions take into account the gender dimension. Indeed, research developed within the Programme Agreement show that young women with a migrant background can encounter more difficulties in accessing and practicing sport; a particular attention to this target characterizes thus the Programme activities centred on: favouring their participation to sport practice; promoting positive experiences of integration through sport targeting young women with a migrant background.

### **Refugee and internally displaced women**

The project ForWork-Fostering Opportunities of Refugee Workers (started in 2018 - ongoing) is co-financed by the European Union in the framework of the EaSI programme (2014-2020). It is promoted by ANPAL (the National Agency for Active Labour Market Policies) with several partners and associates, including DGIMM. The goal is facilitating access to labour market for vulnerable migrants, e.g., refugees, with a focus on Public Employment Services (PES) and migrant women.

Main activities include training of PES operators, mentors and cultural mediators as well as a set of targeted services (e.g., skills profiling, language and professional training, placement). FORWORK includes three gender-sensitive components. First, female mentors and cross cultural facilitators are assigned to all participating women – about 15% of the total sample – and individual interviews are held separately from family members. Second, PES staff involved receive training from experienced officials of the territorial government offices (Prefectures) about gender-sensitive identification of victims of human trafficking. The training of PES staff is done using the “standard training module” prepared as part of the work activities of the Steering Committee for the new national plan Anti human trafficking (Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation). This training model has been the subject of the OECD’s “Combating human trafficking along migration routes” experimentation. The report from

GRETA and the consortium's knowledge of Piedmont suggest that criminal organizations might take advantage of the lengthy process for asylum-seeking to exploit women for profit. Refugee women are made aware of the services available to face the trauma, and of the country's legislation against violence. Third, women with children are entitled to a monthly allowance for work/family reconciliation.

## **Other**

The Italian Cooperation intervenes through the implementation of various projects aimed at protecting women's fundamental rights (particularly concerning reproductive and maternal health), at fighting against gender discrimination and at enhancing their role in the entrepreneurial context, thus promoting a more inclusive socio-economic development.

Our engagement for the prevention of gender discrimination and for the promotion of the rights of women and girls is witnessed by various projects on the continent.

### **AFRICA**

#### **EXAMPLE n.1**

**Title:** "Socio-economic empowerment of women and protection of women and adolescents from HTPs (Harmful Traditional Practices)"

**Beneficiary Country:** Ethiopia

**Date of approval:** July 2016

**Duration of the project:** 16 months

**Total budget:** 500.000 euros (grant)

**Implementing Parties:** UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)

**Project description:** It was implemented in the areas of Wolayta and Hadiya (both situated in the southern part of the country); it was aimed at increasing the socio-economic potential of women through three kind of actions: 1) support to the creation of income-generating activities and to the prosecution of the school career; 2) awareness raising activities for local communities so as to eliminate discriminatory attitudes with regards to women; 3) activities that could improve women's knowledge of the administrative institutions that operate in the gender equality sector.

#### **EXAMPLE n.2**

**Title:** "Project to support the National Strategy of Gender Equality - PASNEEG"

**Beneficiary Country:** Senegal

**Date of approval:** October 2014

**Duration of the project:** 1 year

**Total budget:** 2.150.000 euros (grant)

**Implementing Parties:** UNWOMEN

**Project description:** It is aimed at reinforcing the capacities of the government of Senegal in the realization of the New Strategy of gender equality promotion, at supporting the operationalization of the strategy to fight discrimination against women and gender-based violence and at promoting the women's economic empowerment following a approach based on local economic development, coherently with the "Plan Sénégal Emergent (PSE).

#### **EXAMPLE n.3**

**Title:** "Programme to support the system of elaboration, monitoring and evaluation of gender-sensitive public policies – PASEMEPP"

**Beneficiary Country:** Senegal

**Date of approval:** July 2017

**Duration of the project:**

**Total budget:** 500.000 euros (grant)



**Implementing Parties:** UNWOMEN

**Project description:** In direct collaboration with the Ministry for Women, the Family and Children, it aims at realizing a measurement system of women's empowerment, an essential instrument for the design and the definition of coherent policies of gender equality and for the evaluation of the economic and social impacts of the intervention put forward by the Senegalese government.

**EXAMPLE n.4**

**Title:** "Emergency initiative to support the health system, agriculture and food security and education of the vulnerable population"

**Beneficiary Country:** Central African Republic

**Date of approval:** September 2016

**Duration of the project:** 1 year

**Total budget:** 2 million euro (grant)

**Implementing Parties:** Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and CSOs

**Project description:** The intervention aims to strengthen agriculture and food security, health, protection and education. The activities provided for a greater involvement of women in productive activities, by promoting their access to materials, equipment, technical training and decision-making, encouraging equal pay for women and men.

**MIDDLE EAST**

**EXAMPLE n.4**

**Title:** "Strengthening Raqqa Local Administration to Support the Rural Communities."

**Beneficiary Country:** Syria

**Date of approval:** February 2018

**Duration of the project:** 1 year

**Total budget:** 1 million euros (grant)

**Implementing Parties:** CIHEAM BARI, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari

**Project description:** this project aims to increase the capacity of the Local Civil Administration of Al Raqqa (LCAR), in order to support its rural communities by providing agriculture and livestock services and inputs. In particular, Women's Associations of Raqqa will be empowered by incentivizing women income-generating activities mainly related to the improvement of several agricultural products. Moreover, several new jobs opportunities for women will be created. The project will take many actions to improve women's access and participation to the project activities through:

**The beneficiary selection:** Priority will be given to the farms managed by women and widows.

**Access on information:** To inform the beneficiaries, project announcement will be done in the locations most frequented by women (local market/shops, medical centers, hospitals, radio, etc.).

**EXAMPLE n.5**

**Title:** "AMAL - Human Rights and Gender Equality."

**Beneficiary Country:** Palestine

**Date of approval:** February 2018

**Duration of the project:** 3 years

**Total budget:** 4,000,000 euros (grant)

**Implementing Parties:** a) Palestinian Authorities: Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP), Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), Attorney General's Office (AGO) b) Italian Government: INGOs, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation-Jerusalem (AICS), the Italian National Institute for Statistics (ISTAT)

**Project description:** the aim of the intervention is to promote women's economic empowerment and societal change towards a more gender equal society through support to women entrepreneurs to ensure sustainability of businesses as well as more gender sensitive enterprises, with a considerable

component of innovation and positive discrimination. Gender equality thinking will be fostered through the creation of artistic events which will involve young and female artists in creative productions with various media as opportunities to promote their work. This will also constitute a channel of communication to communities and to the wider public about gender equality values to contribute to behavioural change.

#### **EXAMPLE n.6**

**Title:** “Promoting Women’s Productive Participation in the Public Sphere.”

**Beneficiary Country:** Jordan

**Date of approval:** September 2018

**Duration of the project:** 2 years

**Total budget:** 1.5 million euros (grant)

**Implementing Parties:** UN WOMEN

**Project description:** the project will use women’s economic empowerment as a pathway to other forms of empowerment, including access to information, developing women’s leadership and civic engagement, prevention of gender based violence, and support structures enabling women to access training and work. By working in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD), the project will strengthen national mechanisms for social protection and livelihoods support, creating a sustainable, gender mainstreamed solution to promote women’s productive participation in the public sphere.

### **EMERGENCY INITIATIVES**

#### **EXAMPLE n.7**

**Title:** “Emergency initiative in favor of internally displaced persons, returning populations, refugees and host communities in Iraq”

**Beneficiary Country:** Iraq

**Date of approval:** March 2018

**Duration of the project:** 2 years

**Total budget:** 3 million euros (grant)

**Implementing Parties:** Italian Agency for Development Cooperation Amman (AICS) and INGOs

**Project description:** The initiative aims to strengthen basic services and to promote income and employment opportunities to the most vulnerable groups identified among Iraqi displaced persons, Syrian refugees, returnees and host communities. In particular, it focuses on minors, victims of violence, disabled, ethnic-religious minorities. Infrastructural maintenance interventions, supply of sanitary and medical equipment, and primary health services are carried out, with particular reference to reproductive and mental health. In the education sector, the following activities are carried out: rehabilitation and strengthening of educational services, including infrastructural interventions; the provision of educational material; training and support for teachers; awareness campaigns against early school leaving. Cash assistance activities. Support to families wishing to build small and medium-sized enterprises.

#### **EXAMPLE n.8**

**Title:** “Provision of Life-Saving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Assistance to Civilians and Emergency Gender Based Violence (GBV) Services to Women and Girls Impacted by Military Operations to Re-take the Mosul Corridor”

**Beneficiary Country:** Iraq

**Date of approval:** March 2018

**Duration of the project:** 1 year

**Total budget:** 1.5 million euros (grant)

**Implementing Parties:** UNICEF

**Project description:** The project is composed of two components: (1) water and hygiene (WASH) sector, (2) psychosocial assistance to women victims of violence, consisting in activities for the prevention of gender violence in the various phases of displacement and psychosocial assistance to displaced women and girls victims of violence, with a particular focus on minority groups, and activities aimed at promoting the social reintegration of victims.

**4. Has the increasing number of humanitarian crises—caused by conflict, extreme weather or other events—affected the implementation of the BPfA in your country?**

YES/NO

*If YES, please give concrete examples of the effects of humanitarian crises on progress for women and girls in your country and of measures taken to prevent and respond to humanitarian crises in a gender-responsive manner (1 page max.).*

Please refer to Question n. 3.

The Italian Government has actively participated in the negotiations on the 2030 Agenda 2030 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. Mention has to be made also of relevant national commitments, indicated (<http://www.agenziacooperazione.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Gli-impegni-italiani-a-Istanbul.pdf>) on the occasion of the World Humanitarian Summit (May 2016, Turkey).

In 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. 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.

**5. Which of the following does your country consider to be the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country for the coming five years through laws, policies and programmes? (please check relevant categories)**

- Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice
- Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls
- Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security
- Eliminating violence against women and girls
- Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- Political participation and representation
- Right to work and rights at work (e.g. gender pay gap, occupational segregation, career progression)
- Women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises

- Unpaid care and domestic work / work-family conciliation (e.g. paid maternity or parental leave, care services)
- Gender-responsive social protection (e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)
- Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, transport, communication, etc.)
- Strengthening women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability
- Gender-responsive budgeting
- Digital and financial inclusion for women
- Gender-responsive disaster risk prevention, reduction and resilience building
- Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes
- Other

*Please provide brief reflections on how you plan to address these priorities (3 – 5 pages).*

Please refer to Question n. 2.

### **Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls**

We are aware that the under-representation of women in science and research, especially in decision-making positions, limits the potential for research and development and is a brake on the economies of countries.

For this reason, we intend to continue and broaden the action of raising awareness of the new generations, encouraging women's access to the scientific-technological, engineering and mathematical (STEM), as well as research, promoting gender equality in these areas, the advancement of women's careers and the spread of scientific culture among students.

In particular, in view of the success in 2017 and 2018, activities continued under the "STEM learning in summer" initiative. Summer Camps on Science, Mathematics, Computer Science and Coding" through which more than 300 schools in Italy will run summer camps in STEM subjects, totally free for families.

### **Eliminating violence against women and girls**

The Department for Equal Opportunities has a role of institutional coordination of the implementation mechanism of the National Strategic Plan on male violence against women for the period 2017-2020, promoting public-private partnership as a constant method of work in all phases of the policy cycle. The Control Room was immediately established by the Prime Minister's Decree of 25 September 2018, chaired by the relevant political authority (On. Under-Secretary of State Vincenzo Spadafora). The Technical Committee was also set up by the Prime Minister's Decree of 25 October 2018 to support the Cabin. In the last plenary session, the first draft of the Operational Plan was submitted to the Control Room by the Technical Committee. The Operational Plan is the collection of the objective forms filled in by each central and territorial administration, in which they are broken down into concrete actions:

- the priorities of the Plan;
- timing of implementation;
- financial and human resources employed.

The first intervention of the DEO was to develop national guidelines for the training of operators who come into contact with women victims of violence. Seven working groups have been set up, each of which is required to make contributions in relation to its own area of competence.

The working groups are:

1. Police Forces
2. Health and social workers
3. Public and private workers
4. Legal practitioners
5. School and university staff
6. Communication agents
7. Armed Forces

In addition, an ad hoc Group "proposals and corrections to current legislation" has been set up within which proposals and suggestions for new interventions and/or regulatory changes are examined.

### **Political participation and representation**

In Italy many actions have been taken in recent years to improve gender equality in political decision-making and we're committed to work to this scope. As a result of these measures, the number of women working in political institutions has increased considerably. This increase is confirmed by the recent general elections, where 34% of the newly elected parliamentarians are women. This is the highest percentage achieved in the history of the Italian Republic.

### **Right to work and rights at work (e.g. gender pay gap, occupational segregation, career progression)**

The Italian Government intends to renew its commitment to the implementation of concrete actions in order to strengthen rights and promote gender equality, so that women have greater access to the labour market, social and political life and decision-making positions.

We will continue to promote actions aimed at redesigning the organization of work and experimenting with forms of agile work that do not penalize women's career paths and that allow them to reconcile work and family life. These activities are part of the normative-defining context outlined both by Law No. 81/2017, which defines and regulates agile work in the public and private sectors, and by Law No. 124/2015, which reorganizes the public administration. A specific action of support system for public administrations in experimenting with innovative measures for the reconciliation of personal and family life is also provided for in the 2014/2020 Community Programme.

### **Women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises**

In order to ensure support for initiatives of a female entrepreneurship nature and to promote greater employment opportunities, the Italian Government, starting in 2013, has launched a significant activity to promote female entrepreneurship by providing, in support of Italian SMEs, a public guarantee to cover financial transactions aimed at business activities carried out by female enterprises. The aim of this initiative was to intervene on the difficulty of access to credit, which is the main problem faced by women in undertaking business activities and self-employment.

The number of women's enterprises that have enjoyed this guarantee is more than 16,000 and the number of bank branches involved in this operation of support to women's enterprises represent about 42% of the branches in the sector that, overall, have allocated a ceiling of about 1.3 million euros to enterprises with predominantly female participation and for self-employed women.

## Section Two: Progress across the 12 critical areas of concern

This section covers progress across the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. To facilitate the analysis, the 12 critical areas of concern have been clustered into six overarching dimensions that highlight the alignment of the BPfA with the 2030 Agenda. This approach is aimed at facilitating reflections about the implementation of both frameworks in a mutually reinforcing manner to accelerate progress for all women and girls.

### **Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work**

#### **Critical areas of concern:**

- A. Women and poverty
- F. Women and the economy
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

#### **6. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment?**

X Strengthened / enforced laws and workplace policies and practices that prohibit discrimination in the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the public and private sectors, and equal pay legislation

X Introduced / strengthened gender-responsive active labour market policies (e.g. education and training, skills, subsidies)

X Taken measures to prevent sexual harassment, including in the workplace

Strengthened land rights and tenure security

X Improved financial inclusion and access to credit, including for self-employed women

Improved access to modern technologies (incl. climate-smart technologies), infrastructure and services (incl. agricultural extension)

Supported the transition from informal to formal work, including legal and policy measures that benefit women in informal employment

Devised mechanisms for women's equal participation in economic decision-making bodies (e.g. in ministries of trade and finance, central banks, national economic commissions)

Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

**Strengthened / enforced laws and workplace policies and practices that prohibit discrimination in the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the public and private sectors, and equal pay legislation**

The decriminalization provided by Law Decree No. 8 of 15 January 2016 also involved some changes in the sanctions for the infringement of the ban on gender discrimination at workplace. Minor criminal sanctions (fines from 250 to 1500 euros) have been replaced by administrative monetary sanctions from 5000 to 10000 euros. The change regards all discriminations covered by the Code of Equal Opportunities. That is, all sectors, both public and private, and all aspects of the working relationship: access to work, equal pay, equal working conditions, etc.

Through Act No. 183/2010, the then Ministers for Public Administration and for Equal Opportunities jointly issued in 2011 the Guidelines on "The Committees for the Protection of Gender Equality (CUGs)" that took over the functions previously entrusted to the Equal Opportunities Committees and the Joint Committees on mobbing. CUG's mandate, mainly focussing on consultancy and monitoring, covers all grounds of discrimination, as well as economic treatment, career advancement, security, and labour's access.

The national legal framework regarding equal opportunities for women and men is the Legislative Decree No. 198/2006. In particular, under Art. 46, it is provided that companies with more than 100 employees have the obligation to draw up a two-years report referring to the situation of their workforce in a gender perspective. It means that companies have to fill an application regarding the situation of the personnel as to maternity, or other leaves, career, dismissals or firing, hiring and salary. Then, regional equality councilors have to elaborate this data to make an analysis on the situation.

At this regard, the last action for enforcing equal pay legislation is represented by the Ministerial Decree of 3 May 2018 of the Minister of Labour and Social Policies for the implementation of the above mentioned Art. 46. The important innovation at this regard is that from this Decree onwards, data are collected electronically through a platform available in the website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies. In this way data are guaranteed as to their reliability and uniformity at national level, in order to be actually comparable. In this way, data related to the salary of women and men and their variability in order to their career, for companies with more than 100 employees, will be certified and available for the analysis in the whole territory.

### **Introduced / strengthened gender-responsive active labour market policies (e.g. education and training, skills, subsidies)**

Art. 4, para. 24, letter b), of Law No. 92 of 28 June 2012, introduced experimentally the possibility for working mothers to request vouchers for the purchase of care-services or a financial contribution to meet the costs of childcare services, either public or private, for a period of six months for the three-year period 2013-2015. Mothers must submit the request at the end of maternity leave and within the following 11 months, as an alternative to parental leave. Art. 1, paras. 282-283 of Law No. 208 of 28 December 2015 (Budget Law) extended the benefit for the year 2016 also to self-employed women.

The same happened with Art. 1, paras. 356-357 of Law No. 232 of 11 December 2016 (Budget Law 2017) that extended the benefit for the two-year period 2017-2018, both for female employees and for women professionals as well as for self-employed women and women entrepreneurs. The spending threshold established by the Budget Law 2017 is that of 40 million euros and of 10 million euros for each of the two years, respectively, without prejudice to the implementing provisions contained in the ministerial decrees of 22 December 2012, 28 October 2014 and 1 September 2016. Since January 2018 the voucher for the purchase of care-services for babies has been renamed "contribution for the purchase of baby-sitting services" and is provided according to the procedures established by the Family Booklet.

Occasional work services are tools that can be used by individuals who want to undertake work activities occasionally (the regulation of occasional work was introduced by Art. 54bis of Law No. 96 of 21 June 2017, converting Law Decree No. 50 of 24 April 2017). Users can acquire work services through the Family Booklet, a pre-financed personal booklet, consisting of payment instruments. The nominal value of the Family Booklet payment instrument is fixed at 10 euros, an amount aimed at compensating work activities of a duration not exceeding one hour. The family booklet is intended for people who are not engaged in a professional or business activity.

### **Taken measures to prevent sexual harassment, including in the workplace**

Art. 24 of Legislative Decree No. 80 of 15 June 2015 provides that female employees in the public and private sectors and female employees with a coordinated and continuous collaboration job-relationship, included sheltered pathways relating to women victims of gender-based violence, may take advantage of an abstention from work for a maximum period of 90 days over a three-years period. By Law No. 232 of 11 December 2016 (Budget Law 2017), the leave was extended to self-employed women, too.

Law No. 205 of 27 December 2017 (Budget Law 2018) extended the leave to domestic workers from January 2018 on.

Women who want to take advantage of the leave and the allowance must have an employment relationship in progress, included in social inclusion pathways certified by the social services of the municipality to which she belongs, by the anti-violence centers or by the safe houses.

The maximum period leave is of three months (equivalent to 90 days' actual leave from work) within three years of the date of commencement of the certified protection pathway.

A daily allowance of 100% of final salary shall be paid for days of leave used for protection pathways.

Art. 26 of Legislative Decree No. 198/2006 was amended in 2017 by Art. 1, para. 218 lett. b) of the Law No. 205/2017, comparing harassment and sexual harassment to discrimination. In this way, it is possible now for every worker who may be in that situation, to make a claim to the local Equality Councilor.

Equality Councilors for equal opportunities at work act as public officers under Arts. 12-20 of Legislative Decree No. 198/2006, as amended, and their tasks are the detection of gender discrimination in the workplace, during the phases of entering, career, training, salaries, dismissals and pensions. They can act for promoting the anti-discrimination principle in active policies, positives actions and any other useful initiative at this regard.

Furthermore, Arts. 36-37 attribute them, as public officers, the legitimacy to appear before a judge, or in conciliation out-of-court, when directly charged by the worker for discrimination cases in the workplace.

Equality Councilors work together with labour inspectors at all levels of local administration, and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Councilor and the Inspection service at all administrative levels, national and local regulates their cooperation.

Equality Councilors act on charge of the workers, directly in the place where the job place is situated, as they are established at all administrative levels, regional, provincial and national.

### **Improved financial inclusion and access to credit, including for self-employed women**

Women's inability to have access to credit dramatically reduces their opportunities to be self-employed and succeed as entrepreneurs. This means that also their opportunities for empowering themselves and contributing to sustainable development are particularly limited.



With a view to supporting women's entrepreneurship and promoting employment opportunities for them, since 2013 the Italian Government has started to increasingly promote women's entrepreneurship by providing for a public guarantee mechanism covering the financial operations aimed at carrying out activities implemented by female companies, thus supporting also the Italian SMEs.

Through this initiative, the Government intended to act on the difficulty of access to credit, which is the main problem women encounter when undertaking entrepreneurial activities and self-employment.

The first measure is the **Special Section called "Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri – Dipartimento per le pari opportunità" within the Central Guarantee Fund for SMEs.**

The section was set up by the agreement - signed on 14 March 2013 - among the Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department for Equal Opportunities, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

The total budget of the Special Section is 38 million euros, 50% of which is dedicated to female business start-up.

Furthermore, in December 2014, the Department, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Economy and Finance signed the additional Act to the agreement extending the benefit to self-employed women.

About 16,000 female companies benefited from the guarantee, whereas 55 are the banks that have committed to supporting women's companies, namely 37% of the national banking sector. Totally 1,500,000,000 euros have been allocated for SMEs with prevalingly female participation and self-employed women.

The second measure is a **complementary tool of the Section is the Memorandum of Understanding** signed, on 4 June 2014 and extended until 31 December 2019, by the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Italian banking association (ABI), the General Confederation of Italian Industry (Confindustria), the Italian Confederation of Small and Medium-Sized Industry (Confapi), the Italian Enterprise Network (Rete Imprese Italia) and the Alliance of Italian Cooperatives (Alleanza delle Cooperative Italiane). The Memorandum of Understanding provides for a specific plan of interventions to support access to credit for companies with a predominantly female participation and for self-employed women, by the participating banks. In June 2016 also Confprofessioni joined the Protocol. Moreover ABI has launched in June 2019 an initiative called "Donne in banca" (Women in banks), involving banks and financial companies to reinforce their corporation policies according to gender equality principles.

## 7. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote work-family conciliation?

- Included unpaid care and domestic work in national statistics and accounting (e.g. time-use surveys, valuation exercises, satellite accounts)
- X Expanded childcare services or made existing services more affordable
- X Expanded support for frail elderly persons and others needing intense forms of care
- X Introduced or strengthened maternity/paternity/parental leave or other types of family leave
- Invested in time and labour-saving infrastructure, such as public transport, electricity, water and sanitation, to reduce the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women
- Promoted decent work for paid care workers, including migrant workers
- X Conducted campaigns or awareness raising activities to encourage the participation of men and boys in unpaid care and domestic work

- Introduced legal changes regarding the division of marital assets or pension entitlements after divorce that acknowledge women's unpaid contribution to the family during marriage
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

### **Expanded childcare services or made existing services more affordable**

In recent years, partly as a consequence of the adoption of the Lisbon Strategy, Italy has been promoting policies aimed at supporting and developing early childhood educational services. The Italian Government, through the Department for Family Policies of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, has been committed to the full implementation of a specific "Extraordinary plan for the development of early-childhood socio-educational services". As shown by the last data collected the benefits deriving from the policies for the development of early childhood educational services have been significant also due to the investments made over the last few years. Although the coverage rate has grown over time, the uneven distribution (higher in the north and in the centre and lower in the south of the country) is still a critical feature of the Italian system.

Law No. 107/2015 reforming the national education and training system and Legislative Decree 65/2017 on the establishment of an integrated education system from birth to 6 years of age provided for that the education of the age group from 0 to 6 years is also part of the national education system, and falls within the responsibilities of the Ministry of Education, University and Research. In line with this approach, on 20 November 2018, the Department for Family Policies signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry for Education, University and Research with the aim, *inter alia*, of collaborating in the collection of data on educational services for children and contributing to strengthening the quality of educational services throughout the national territory. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed with the National Statistics Institute (ISTAT) and the Ca' Foscari University of Venice on 13 December 2018, with a view to producing, disseminating and analyzing statistical data on the social and educational services for early childhood.

In 2013, a specific National Programme for the Care Services to Childhood and Dependent Elderly People (so-called PNSCIA - *Programma Nazionale Servizi di Cura all'Infanzia e agli Anziani non autosufficienti*) started as part of the National Programme for Action and Cohesion (PAC). The PNSCIA is co-chaired by the Department for Family Policies and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the Ministry of the Interior and is aimed at developing and increasing early childhood services (public and private nurseries and supplementary services).

The Ministry of the Interior is in charge of the implementation of the Programme, which addresses to 201 Social Districts (involving 1608 Municipalities totally) in Calabria, Campania, Apulia and Sicily. As of 31 March 2019, the resources allocated for early childhood services in the 4 Regions amount to:

- About 50.000.000 euros (first instalment - 197 projects);
- About 272.200.000 euros (second instalment - 191 projects);
- 18.224.820,36 euros (part of the first instalment and not allocated) have been used for 60 projects directly managed by the Management Authority of the Programme (Ministry of the Interior).

### **Expanded support for frail elderly persons and others needing intense forms of care**

On 28 December 2017 the Department for Family Policies published a public Call for Proposals for the financing of projects on family policies. One of the funding priorities of the Call was “Active ageing and solidarity between generations – Inter-generational approach”. The projects submitted under this priority were mainly aimed at the consolidation of the family in its societal dimension, while promoting:

- the integration and the inter-generational exchange through the inclusion of (also dependent) elderly people;
- the culture of active ageing and giving value to the useful contribution of the elderly to the society and the economy, through their participation in social life as well as a healthy and independent lifestyle;
- the prevention of discrimination, violence and abuse against elderly people.

The main aim of the projects was to test strategies and solutions that could actively involve the whole community, families, associations, public and private employers, in order to build a social network able to promote innovative exchanges between generations and active ageing initiatives.

Furthermore, the Department for Family Policies and the INRCA (National Institute for the Hospitalization and Care of Elderly People) have signed a three-year agreement with the aim of elaborating, together with all the relevant stakeholders, a shared Plan on Active Aging in line with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging (MIPAA) also taking into account the 2030 Agenda. Among the envisaged objectives, also the drafting of guidelines on the implementation of active aging policies has been included, together with the development of an integrated intervention model to be implemented at the local level with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. This will contribute to build a social welfare system enhancing active ageing as an instrument for social inclusion, social cohesion and intergenerational solidarity, while using a sustainable development approach in order to reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work.

The above mentioned PNSCIA also addresses dependent elderly people, i.e. people over 65 years of age who are not independent anymore. Within this framework, funds have been allocated to projects submitted by local groups of municipalities for a total amount of 264 million euros in the 4 abovementioned southern Regions.

In relation to elderly people, the PNSCIA envisages the following objectives:

- increase in the assistance of elderly people under the form of home care, while ensuring an adequate level of social-welfare services;
- Increase and qualification of the provision of residential and semi-residential services for older people;
- Improvement of the expertise of managers, professional operators and family carers;
- Experimentation of innovative protocols for the customized assistance to frail older persons, while supporting the collaboration among public authorities working in the social and healthcare sectors.

As of March 2019, a total amount of 12.100.000 home assistance hours have been financed for elderly people. The activities of the Programme will end in June 2020.

As of 31 March 2019, the allocated resources for dependent elderly people in the above mentioned 4 Regions amount to:

- about 78.000.000 euros (first instalment - 200 projects);
- about 186.600.000 euros (second instalment - 197 projects).

About 260 million euros have been allocated for initiatives in favor of elderly people for the period 2013-2019.

#### **Introduced or strengthened maternity/paternity/parental leave or other types of family leave**

### ***Mandatory Paternity Leave***

The provision included in the 2019 Budget law (Law No. 145/2018) extends for 2019 the mandatory paternity leave (introduced by Law No. 92 of 28 June 2012) while raising the duration of the leave to five days.

Mandatory paternity leave shall be taken within the first five months of the child even if not continuously. Another day of voluntary leave can be added, which can be used only if not taken by the mother.

Please find below a table illustrating the evolution of the compulsory and voluntary paternity leave from 2013 to 2019.

Year	Compulsory paternity leave	Voluntary paternity leave
2013 - 2015	1 day	2
2016	2 days	2
2017	2 days	0
2018	4 days	1
2019	5 days	1

### ***Postponed mandatory maternity leave***

The 2019 Budget Law (Law No. 145/2018) introduced the possibility for pregnant women to use the already established 5 months of mandatory maternity leave after the child birth.

Furthermore, Art. 16, para. 485 of the Single Text on the protection and support of maternity and paternity (Legislative Decree No. 151 of 26 March 2001) provides for that women workers are granted the possibility to abstain from work exclusively after the birth of their child and within the subsequent five months, provided that both the medical specialist of the National Health Service and the competent physician for the protection of health in the workplace attest that this option does not undermine the health of the pregnant woman and the unborn child.

### **Conducted campaigns or awareness raising activities to encourage the participation of men and boys in unpaid care and domestic work**

In 2017 the Department for Family Policies developed a specific awareness-raising campaign for the promotion of the taking up of parental leaves by fathers. The campaign consisted in an advert and was characterized by the slogan "Parental leave: Asking for it is easy and is your right – Because growing your child and make them happy can be the most beautiful job in the world!". The campaign was elaborated within the framework of the E.L.E.N.A. (Experimenting flexible Labour tools for Enterprises by eNgaging men And women) Project, a European project coordinated by the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers and co-funded by the European Commission under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme.

The campaign is available in Italian at <http://www.politichefamiglia.it/it/politiche-informazioni-e-servizi/politiche-informazioni-e-servizi/famiglia/conciliazione-famiglia-e-lavoro/campagna-comunicazione-a-sostegno-del-congedo-parentale/materiali-grafici-e-video/>

### **Other (promotion of work-family conciliation)**

The promotion of initiatives on work-life balance, that strongly benefit both parents and children, represents one of the priorities of the Department for Family Policies of the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Particularly worth mentioning is the establishment of the Institutional Committee for the Dialogue with Companies aimed at the Promotion of Work-life Balance to Support Natality and Maternity in Companies, which was established by the Decree of the Minister for Family and Disabilities of 31 January 2019.

Indeed, the Department for Family Policies is the central public Administration responsible for the elaboration and implementation of family policies, including actions for the promotion of work-life balance. The Institutional Committee has been established within the Department with a view to facilitating the exchange of good practices and experiences on this topic among the 60 member companies. Along these lines, a public Call for proposals for a total amount of 70 million euros will be published for the financing of projects aimed at promoting innovative and efficient actions on company welfare.

Under the administrative point of view, Italy has introduced both in the public and private sectors smart-working (teleworking) and flexible working arrangements, that contribute to both meeting the organizational needs of companies and public administrations and ensuring the individual wellbeing of working women and men, with limited management costs and the resulting improvement of services especially for families.

In particular, as far as reconciliation between work and private life is concerned, also relevant is the provision included in Art. 14 of Law No. 124 of 7 August 2015 ("Mandate to the Government on the Reorganization of Public Administrations").

Pursuant to para. 3 of the above-mentioned Art. 14 of 5 June 2017, the President of the Council of Ministers issued a specific Directive on Smart Working in the Public Administration.

The Directive provides for that, within three years, public administrations shall allow at least 10% of employees, if they so request, to use flexible working arrangements (teleworking, smart-working), ensuring that employees who use them do not undergo penalties for the recognition of professionalism and career advancement.

In order to facilitate and promote a smarter organization of work, each public administration is asked in particular to promote and disseminate the use of digital technologies to support work performance; promote training paths; implement the discipline in telework, smart-working and reconciliation of work and private life by giving priority criteria for the use of relevant measures, compatible with the organization of offices and work, in favor of those who are in personal, social, and family disadvantages and of employees engaged in voluntary activities.

According to Law No. 145/2018, Art. 1, para. 486 (2019 Budget Law) - amending Law No. 81/2017 on self-employment and smart-working and establishing measures for the protection of non-entrepreneurial self-employment and measures to promote subordinate work flexibility in working times and places - public and private employers aiming at implementing smart-working arrangements shall give priority to working women within three years after the end of the mandatory maternity leave, as well as to workers with a disabled child. These measures further support family as well as work-life balance and the promotion of the rights of both women and men.

Furthermore, on 17 December 2017, the Department for Family Policies published the abovementioned Call for Proposals, which was also aimed at financing innovative projects for work-life balance. The funds envisaged for this Call amount to 1.000.000,00 euros. The purpose of the project submitted under this funding priority was to promote the construction of family-friendly workplaces, improving spaces and services provided by the employer, within a collaborative perspective also through awareness-raising actions and training measures involving all relevant the stakeholders.

**8. Has your country introduced austerity/fiscal consolidation measures, such as cuts in public expenditure or public sector downsizing, over the past five years?**

YES/NO

**If YES, have assessments on their impact on women and men, respectively, been conducted?**

- Yes, their impact on women/men was estimated before measures were put in place.
- Yes, the impact was assessed after measures were put in place.
- X No, the impact on women/men has not been assessed.

**If YES, please describe the findings (1-2 pages).**

In the Italian context, where gender gaps are wide and usually not in favour of women, a pilot gender budget was implemented with reference to the 2016 State budget in order to assess the different impact of budgetary policies on men and women in terms of money, services, time and unpaid work (Art. 38-septies of Act No. 196/2009). The methodology and actors involved were established through a decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, acting in concert with the Minister of Economy and Finance, issued on 16 June 2017. The decree states the exercise should be carried out on final accounts, the analyses are aimed at both the expenditure and the revenue side and statistical indicators should be used to highlight the existing gender gaps.

Following the first pilot on the 2016 State final accounts, it was deemed appropriate to replicate the activities also for reference year 2017 in order to allow for the examination of a more complete set of indicators on gender gaps in areas fundamental to the community and to carry out a more precise census of the relevant expenditures and of the activities carried out by each administration in a gender perspective.

The task was undertaken by:

- highlighting gender gaps in the economy and society;
- analysing gender gaps among public employees for the central State administration and Presidency of the Council of Ministers;
- reporting provisions and laws introduced in 2017 to promote equal opportunities or act on well-known gender inequalities;
- studying the impact of the main tax policies and specific tax reliefs;
- reclassifying of the expenditures of the State budget 2017;
- collecting information on the actions undertaken in 2017 by each administration to reduce gender inequalities.

The gender budget based on the State final accounts is affected by the fact that not all policies entail a burden on the State budget (e.g. regulatory measures or those entirely under the responsibility of other levels of government) or find a complete account (e.g. transfers to other public administrations or extra-budgetary funds). The same holds for the revenue side, since not all policies are represented in the State budget (some tax advantages correspond to a specific chapter/article of the State budget on the revenue side and are compensated on the expenditure side, while others cannot be distinguished from the overall income taxes). As for 2017 772,2 million euros were allocated.

**Poverty eradication, social protection and social services**

**Critical areas of concern:**

- A. Women and poverty
- B. Education and training of women
- C. Women and health
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

**9. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls?**

- Promoted poor women's access to decent work through active labour market policies (e.g. job training, skills, employment subsidies, etc.) and targeted measures
- Broadened access to land, housing, finance, technology and/or agricultural extension services
- Supported women's entrepreneurship and business development activities
- Introduced or strengthened social protection programmes for women and girls (e.g. cash transfers for women with children, public works/employment guarantee schemes for women of working-age, pensions for older women)
- Introduced/strengthened low-cost legal services for women living in poverty
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

**Promoted poor women's access to decent work through active labour market policies**

Women in all age groups are at greater risk of poverty than men and the correction made by social transfers does not affect much the existing disparities. Older and single women with dependent children are particularly at risk. In terms of absolute poverty, measured on consumption basis, the gender gap appears to be less pronounced and the worse conditions concern mostly young people. As for poverty among women, relative poverty incidence among households headed by a female was 10.2% — more stable compared to 2011 (10.4%); relative poverty intensity increased from 20.2% in 2011 to 21.4% in 2013. In 2013, compared to 2011, also absolute poverty increased among households with a woman as reference person: incidence from 6.1% reached 7.5 %; intensity passes from 16.7 % to 17.6 %. Compared to males, single parent females (representing 83 % of all single parent households in relative poverty) met greater economic difficulties: in 2013, relative poverty was 16.1% (13.9 % in 2011) against 13.6 %. Worse conditions are observed among female-headed single parent households with at least one minor child (incidence was 18.9 % and intensity 24.6 %), but even more if the children are young adults seeking employment: about 30.2 % of them was relatively poor (23.4% in 2011), and about one fifth (18.7 %) was absolutely poor (8.3 % in 2011). Compared to 2011, in 2013 poverty incidence, both in relative and absolute terms, increased among households of women living with their children and with aggregate members: from 15.6 % to 19.3% and from 6.3% to 10.6%, respectively.

Mention has to be made also of Act No. 33/2017 on “Rules to fight poverty, to reorganize assistance benefits and to coordinate the system of social services interventions”. Its main goal is to remove the economic and social obstacles that restrict individual freedom and to promote the substantial equality among citizens, also through the fight against poverty.

In order to achieve the goal to counter poverty – as one of the main discriminatory factors - Act No. 33/2017 provides for a comprehensive systematization of measures against poverty, countering economic and social constraints for citizens equity and human development and promoting wider and harmonized social policies.

The main measures provided for by Act No. 33/2017 are: the so-called Inclusion Income, to be financed through the National Fund to Fight Poverty and Social Exclusion, provided by Stability Law-2016. The priority target will be families with children, people with disabilities, pregnant women and unemployed over the age of 55; the reorganization of all Social Assistance Benefits aimed to fight poverty, leaving apart the benefits for elderly people that can no more be employed, the parental benefits and all the benefits linked to disability and occupational invalidity of the recipient; the strengthening of the coordination of all the social services interventions, in order to grant the same essential level of performance at a national level. The Act introduces a system of multidimensional services in order to promote the active inclusion of the disadvantaged citizens, thanks to the coordination of active labour market policies, housing conditions and social care policies.

Lifting at least 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion within 10 years is one of the goals set by the Europe 2020 Strategy adopted by the European Union. The Italian National Reform Program is planning to contribute to this goal: with minus 2.2 million poor people by 2020. The Operational Program (OP) for Inclusion co-financed by ESF (European Social Fund) plays a crucial role in this context. The resources of the National Operational Program are allocated to the activation measures, while the economic support measure is financed through national funds.

One of these is the Support for Active Inclusion (acronym in Italian, SIA). The Support for Active Inclusion is a measure promoted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, to counter poverty by assisting financially families in economic difficulties. This is a national measure against poverty addressed to families in severe economic conditions where at least a member is: a child; son/daughter with disabilities; or a pregnant woman. The SIA combines two kinds of actions: ensuring an economic support paid into a personal electronic payment card that can be used for purchasing basic goods; activating a care project tailored on the specific households and involving its members. The SIA-related action aims, in particular, at: empowering support schemes in order to strengthen the services dealing with the personal care planning of the household and to develop the integrated network of interventions involving other public agencies as well as not-for-profit organizations at a local level; ensuring measures such as training, internships, employment grants and The main goal is to help families to overcome poverty difficulties and to gradually gain social and work autonomy from social services. Beneficiaries are as follows: Municipalities and so-called “Territorial Areas” (local contexts consisting of groups of municipalities that organize integrated services together). Concretely, the Managing Authority will allocate funds through non-competitive tenders. In order to receive these funds, municipalities and/or territorial areas will have to design projects that: a) respond to the needs of the beneficiaries of the Support for Active Inclusion; and b) strengthen the related services - in line with the National Guidelines set by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies in agreement with the Regions. Final recipients are as follows: the families who receive the economic support (SIA), and the social services involved in the activation and personal care planning projects. The request to access to the SIA has to be submitted by a member of the family to the Municipality of residence. Other actors involved are as follows: third sector organizations and/or private bodies operating within the social policies sector. Municipalities and “Territorial Areas” receiving financial support to implement the measures foreseen by the Program can acquire the services and/or the



expertise they need from the third sector organizations and/or from private bodies already active in the social policies area. In the evaluation of the request, relevance is given to the information on the family collected through ISEE, that is an indicator of the Economic Situation, appropriately certified, to allow the potential low-income beneficiaries easily access to social assistance and public interest services. The SIA measure is currently evaluated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, in order to establish the effectiveness of the integration of the money support with services supporting an active inclusion.

It is also important to underline the introduction in Italy of a new measure “Reddito di cittadinanza”. After the experience of the SIA, the further extension of the so-called “experimental social card”, in 2018 entered into force the first national measure against poverty (called REI – Minimum Income for Inclusion) that provided both financial and services support to families in need, covered by the Anti-poverty Fund.

The Budget law 2019 established the Fund for “Reddito di Cittadinanza” (the new Minimum Income Measure in Italy) that substitutes the Anti-Poverty Fund, as a measure to combat poverty, inequality and social exclusion. The Law No. 26 of 28 March 2019 (converting the Decree Law No. 4 of December 2018 “Urgent provisions for Reddito di Cittadinanza and pension”) is aimed at economic support and social inclusion of those exposed to the risk of social and labour marginalization. The provision amounts to 5906,8 million euros for the year 2019, to 7166,9 million euros for the year 2020, to 7391 million euros for the year 2021 and 7245,9 million euros for the year 2022. Starting from April 2019, the law provides for the introduction of the new income measure for individuals and households in conditions of particular economic and social hardship. It provides mechanism that guarantee a minimum level of subsistence, as well as the promotion of conditions that make the right to work and training effective. The benefit will be between 480 and 9360 euros per year, in consideration of specific parameters, and is provided for a continuous period of no more than 18 months (it can be renewed after a month’s suspension). The work placement is secured by a custom path that will involve activities to serve the community, professional retraining, completion of studies, other commitments to social inclusion and integration in the labour market.

## **Other**

Focusing on migrant women in Italy, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies publishes annual reports on several migration and integration issues. Each study includes analyses specifically devoted to gender issues. For example, in the reports on the UAMs presence, a special focus is addressed to unaccompanied minors of female gender to provide indicators of potential victims at risk of sexual exploitation and data are broken by age groups, citizenships and Regions of reception.

Furthermore, in the Annual Report on the presence of migrants in the Italian Labour Market, there is an in-depth analysis of all aspects of the employment situation of migrants and a special focus on migrant women, contributing to the definition of interventions in favour of the female employment rate.

The Directorate-General for immigration and integration policies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies publishes yearly also the Annual reports on migrant communities in Italy, whose data declination by gender makes them an important instrument of knowledge of the characteristics of the migrant women in Italy (Albanian, Bengali, Chinese, Ecuadorian, Egyptian, Filipino, Indian, Moroccan, Moldovan, Nigerian, Pakistani, Peruvian, Senegalese, Sri Lankan, Tunisian, Ukrainian), and a contribution to the definition of public policies gender sensitive.

The same kind of analysis is offered in final reports of projects carried out by the same general Directorate. For example, concerning the project PERCORSI, the final report shows the profile of

female participants (mainly Nigerian, asylum seekers, with an average level of education), that accessed traineeship in fields such as commerce and services.

Finally, the Italian website on Integration ([www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it](http://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it)), managed by the above mentioned Directorate-General, includes the area "Equal opportunities", a repository of initiatives, services and projects (developed on the whole national territory by institutions, associations, professionals, etc.) specifically dedicated to the integration of migrant women.

All sources are available on [www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it](http://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it).

## 10. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls?

- Introduced or strengthened social protection for unemployed women (e.g. unemployment benefits, public works programmes, social assistance)
- Introduced or strengthened conditional cash transfers
- Introduced or strengthened unconditional cash transfers
- Introduced or strengthened non-contributory social pensions
- Reformed contributory social protection schemes to strengthen women's access and benefit levels
- Improved access to the above for specific populations (e.g. women in informal employment, including domestic workers; migrant and refugee women; women in humanitarian settings)
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

Please refer to Question n. 20.

Women's pensions are 37% lower than those of men in Italy, in line with the EU average. The average annual gross pension income of Italian women is about 7 thousand euros less than men's, in the age range between 60 and 79. Moreover, the share of women who perceive less than one thousand euros per month is more than twice the share of men. About 26,500 women joined the early pre-retirement scheme called "woman's option" in 2016-2017.

With the implementation of the European project CLEAR the Department for Equal Opportunities will be responsible for the implementation of the strategy for networking, dissemination, and public communication about Economic Financial Literacy.

The project's aim is to increase female knowledge on the long term effects of labour market participation gaps over the life cycle. Several actions are instrumental to this purpose:

- evaluate with rigorous and scientific methods whether information and advice provided to women affect their knowledge, behaviour and decisions;
- analyse which type of information has the higher probability to be effective, in order to reduce the gender pension gaps.

A better information on how working choices affect pension benefits, will increase women's propensity to contribute to the social security system, thus contributing to its sustainability.

Economic Financial Literacy and wealth management are core basic skills key to achieve an active citizenship, to improve financial wellbeing and prevent low income groups from having inadequate pension at older ages.

### 11. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve health outcomes for women and girls in your country?

- Promoted women's access to health services through expansion of universal health coverage or public health services
- X Expanded specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental, maternal health and HIV services
- X Undertaken gender-specific public awareness/health promotion campaigns
- Provided gender-responsiveness training for health service providers
- X Strengthened comprehensive sexuality education in schools or through community programmes
- Provided refugee women and girls as well as women and girls in humanitarian settings with access to sexual and reproductive health services
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

#### **Expanded specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental, maternal health and HIV services**

Health and physical, mental and social well-being depend on several factors, including gender. The protection and promotion of women's health represent a key investment to improve overall health. Under the Italian semester of EU Presidency-2014 the Ministry of Health organized the European Conference, "Women Health: a life-course approach", to exchange views between EUMS28 on how to improve relevant policies and strategies; and the main topics were: life-style; sexual and reproductive health; women and cancer.

Within this framework the Italian Government adopted the National Strategy titled "Gaining health: making healthy choices easy", which promotes a crosscutting approach, to make healthy life-styles and healthy life environments easier.

The Prime Minister's Decree No. 65/2017 updates the Essential Levels of Assistance (acronym in Italian, LEA), as a result of shared work among State, Regions and scientific societies. The 2016 Stability Law earmarked 800 million euros to upgrade LEA.

Art. 24 of the above Decree deals with "Social and health-care assistance for minors, women, couples and families". In this context, "Prevention, early detection and assistance in cases of sexual and GBV" is included. Moreover, the Ministry of Health has worked and is working to re-adapt family counselling Centers to the needs of today's society.

The National Health Service, in order to guarantee LEA's activity on "Collective Prevention and Public Health" provides for funding of 5% of the National Health Fund. It is up to the regional level to define how to organize health services, including counselling activities and other activities to protect

women's health, with the allocation of resources; and the national level conducts LEA-related monitoring and control.

### **Undertaken gender-specific public awareness/health promotion campaigns**

Aware of the essential role of women within the family as key actors for healthy lifestyles (healthy drivers), women themselves must be, first, in healthy conditions. To increase awareness about women's health in all life periods, with women's participation the Government established the National Women's Health Day, on April 22nd of each year (Nobel Prize Rita Levi Montalcini's birthday).

During the first National Women's Health Day-2016, the Ministry of Health organized an interactive informational project, including online and study-discussions around 10 women health-relevant topics: 1. Sexuality, fertility, and maternal health; 2. Violence, right to health-care, immigrant women; 3. Nutrition throughout lifecycle; 4. Cancers' Prevention and screening; 5. Mental health, eating disorders, and addiction; 6. Beauty treatments and aesthetic medicine, including plastic surgery; 7. Health at work-place; 8. Gendered medicine and research for women; 9. Healthy ageing for women; 10. Communication targeting women, for themselves and as their families' health drivers. Each WG proposed 5 priority participatory actions to be developed over the next three to five years, which resulted in "Manifesto for Women's Health" as signed by Minister of Health.

### **Strengthened comprehensive sexuality education in schools or through community programmes**

In May 2015 the Ministry of Health launched the National Fertility Plan, involving all key stakeholders, including schools, municipalities, and academia, to counter the significant reduction of childbirth and raise awareness on reproductive health. In this context, schools are the privileged interlocutor to raise awareness among the youngsters, about both risk factors and protection of fertility. To this end, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Ministry of Education, University and Research, on 2 April 2015: it was aimed to strengthen inter-institutional collaboration aimed to define common strategies between health and school and to finalize the "National Guidelines for Education to Affectivity, Sexuality and Reproductive Health in Schools", along the WHO Guidelines on Sexual Education — as adapted to Italian reality and school system, especially with regard to the relation between age groups and school cycles, besides considering the National School Guidelines.

## **12. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls?**

- Taken measures to increase girls' access to, retention in and completion of education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development programmes
- X Strengthened educational curricula to increase gender-responsiveness and eliminate bias, at all levels of education
- Provided gender equality and human rights training for teachers and other education professionals
- Promoted safe, harassment-free and inclusive educational environments for women and girls
- X Increased access to skills and training in new and emerging fields, especially STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and digital fluency and literacy
- Ensured access to safe water and sanitation services and facilitated menstrual hygiene management especially in schools and other education/training settings

- Strengthened measures to prevent adolescent pregnancies and to enable adolescent girls to continue their education in the case of pregnancy and/or motherhood  
 Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

### **Strengthened educational curricula to increase gender-responsiveness and eliminate bias, at all levels of education**

Women's under-representation is mainly a cultural problem.

Therefore, multi-annual training projects, entitled "Women, politics and Institutions — educational processes for a gender and equal opportunities culture", have been developed with a view to disseminating a gender-sensitive culture and allowing women, of every age, workers or not, to approach politics and promote their success and their participation in the national political and social life.

Over the years, the Italian Government has taken considerable measures to ensure effective equal opportunities in access to education and training for women and girls, such as: refreshing the school personnel on the issues of gender and equal opportunities, which has for several years been part of the National Plan of training courses for teachers; promoting the specific role that teachers play with regard to gender and equal opportunities; supporting innovative strategies in secondary and high schools to orientate a greater number of female students towards business, as well as scientific and technological subjects; providing lifelong learning for adult women, etc.

Italy has also promoted a project on a Code of Self-regulation for School-books Publishers to ensure equal representation in schoolbooks ([www.impariscuola.it](http://www.impariscuola.it); [www.scosse.org](http://www.scosse.org)).

### **Increased access to skills and training in new and emerging fields, especially STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and digital fluency and literacy**

The Italian Government is aware that investing in actions that promote women's access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and research is essential to promoting gender equality and women's career advancement – besides being one of the main tools able to limit the risks for women to be exposed to poverty and discrimination.

So far Italy has started specific initiatives dedicated to students attending primary and secondary schools, with the aim of:

- Increasing their interest in the STEM subjects and combating gender stereotypes in education;
- Facilitating women's access to scientific and technical careers and professions with higher payment levels;
- Exploiting the potential of specific capabilities of women in these areas.

Special attention was received by the initiative promoted in 2017 by the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, University and Research, titled "During summertime you learn STEM. Summer camps on science, math, computer science and coding" aimed at promoting scientific culture among students of primary and secondary schools of First Instance.

The initiative, by providing a two weeks period of free constructive activities for girls and boys during the long lasting Italian summer holidays (three months), combines the promotion of STEM subject among them with another important target of intervention of the Department, which is the reconciliation of work and private life.

The projects have been carried out in many cases in cooperation with experts in STEM fields. Indeed, a good part of the success of these initiative is due to the contribute of universities and research institutions, associations, companies, foundations and other public and private entities with expertise in the areas of mathematics, science and technology culture, computer science and coding, registered in a dedicated list of stakeholders willing to work with the Italian Government on STEM subjects, that was set up within the Department for Equal Opportunities.

Totally free of charge summer camps were launched in 2017 and about 6,000 boys and girls from the primary and lower secondary schools (of whom at least 60% (i.e. about 4000) were female students) from over 100 Italian cities were involved. Considering its success, this initiative has been extended, thus allowing in 2018 and 2019 to more than 300 schools and over eighteen thousand children throughout Italy (most of whom are girls) to take part in it.

## **Other**

**Title:** Project to support Women's Education and Women's Empowerment for an Inclusive Local Development – PAEF Plus

**Beneficiary country:** Senegal

**Duration:** 2015-2019

**Targeted beneficiaries:** - 149 schools (including 122 primary schools, 24 colleges, 3 high schools) – approx. 30,000 girls and boys identified - 3,800 women members of mothers' associations - About 100 staff members of the deconcentrated headquarters of the Ministry of National Education (MEN) – Approx. 500 teachers

**Partners:** Ministry of National Education (MEN)

**Budget:** 4,000,000 euros

**Project Description:** The project aims to promote equality and gender parity in primary and secondary education in Senegal, in line with the gender country policy. This objective will be achieved by :

- 1) Improving the quality of education and the conditions for girls' access to school
- 2) Raising awareness of communities, schools, families, institutions about girls and women's rights
- 3) Strengthening the socio-economic empowerment of women and their participation in taking responsibility for girls education

Activities implemented: support materials for teachers, support courses, scholarships, school kits, school activities on reproductive health, forums in schools with students, income-generating activities for mothers' associations

**Title:** Enhancing Higher Learning Technical Institutions in Tanzania to Contribute in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

**Beneficiary country:** Tanzania (Myunga, Mwanza, Arusha and Zanzibar)

**Duration:** 2019 – 2023

**Targeted beneficiaries:** 4,400 students and 400 teachers in the partner institutions

**Partners:** Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), Mbeya Institute of Science and Technology (MIST), Arusha Technical College (ATC), Karume Institute of Science and Technology (KIST).

**Budget:** 19,990,400.00 euros (soft loan)

**Project Description:** this initiative builds on the previous experience of TELMS project, which achieved good results in technical training, job placements and girls' engagement in technology and engineering studies. This new phase builds on the past first one and aims at scaling up good practices emerged in the four Institutes of Technology in Tanzania, linking higher technical learning to the SDGs agenda.

Reducing youth unemployment and fostering self-employment by enhancing the quality of third generation academic institutions where innovation and commercialization of research outcomes are also supported. Girls' enrolment and accessibility for disabled students is also promoted.

## Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

### Critical areas of concern:

- D. Violence against women
- I. Human rights of women
- J. Women and the media
- L. The girl child

### 13. In the last five years, which forms of violence against women and girls, and in which specific contexts or settings, have you prioritized for action?

- Intimate partner violence/domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape
- Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in employment
- Violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (e.g. cyberviolence, online stalking)
- Femicide/Feminicide
- Violence against women in politics
- Child, early and forced marriages
- Female genital mutilation
- Other harmful practices
- Trafficking in women and girls
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

Please refer to Questions n. 1-2.

The issue of combating all potential forms of abuse and violence has a global dimension, especially if it is related to new ways of using digital technologies. It is no longer possible to define the violence phenomena in a geographical or territorial way.

All governments are committed to strengthening cooperative activities at the international level. In this perspective, it is necessary to contribute effectively by promoting or adhering to initiatives of an informative nature and to raise awareness on the theme of combating online violence; by making the methods of alert and exchange of information between the national authorities responsible for

monitoring and controlling digital resources and tools faster and more efficient; and by encouraging dialogue and collaboration between institutional actors and private operators (producers, providers, intermediaries of digital services) to prevent and manage all potential forms of online abuse and violence, particularly with regard to women as victims.

### **Intimate partner violence/domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape**

On this issue significant legislative development includes, as follows:

- Law Decree No. 11/2009 converted into Act No. 38/2009, that introduces the crime of stalking (Art. 612-bis of the Italian Criminal Code). To prevent and further protect victims of stalking, a new administrative measure “warning (ammonimento)” has been entrusted to Questore (when the victim does not want to take action against the offender), thus initiating the criminal prosecution. Stalkers shall be punished by imprisonment up to four years. Penalty is increased if the offence is committed by the spouse, who is legally separated or divorced, or by a person previously engaged in an emotional relationship with the victim. Penalty is also increased if the crime is perpetrated against a minor, pregnant woman or person with disabilities. To further enhance the fight against stalking, the then Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Minister of Defense signed, in January 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding, by which a specific Unit has been established at Carabinieri Corps;
- Act No. 172/2012 ratifying the Lanzarote Convention amended Art. 572 of the Criminal Code on “Maltreatment against family members and cohabitants” and provided for harsher penalties (up to six years of detention). Furthermore, it doubled the time limit (from 10 to 20 years), within which the victim is entitled to report sexual abuse to the Police;
- Act No. 119/2013 addresses both stalking and GBV, which had been already regulated, through three conceptual pillars based on prevention, punishment, protection. As for prevention, it strengthens the above “warning” (ammonimento), as well as the gun banning, driving disqualification and the possibility to use electronic tags. Concerning the punishment, new aggravating circumstances are to be mentioned: penalty is increased if children under the age of 18 witness violence as well as if the victim is in a particularly vulnerable situation (if pregnant). Moreover, femicide is further strengthened by consideration for the particularly close relationship between the victim and the perpetrator as an aggravating circumstance (e.g. if the perpetrator is the victim’s spouse or partner, also non-cohabiting partner); in line with the Istanbul Convention, the Italian law aims at ensuring greater protection for victims both in relation to hearings, which will be protected, and through a system guaranteeing transparency during ongoing investigations and legal proceedings, besides the obligation to inform victims about local support services. Furthermore, the law provides for legal aid also for women victims of domestic violence, whose income exceeds the income limits fixed by national legislation.

To update the contents of the aforementioned legislative measures, it is currently under debate at the parliamentary level a comprehensive piece of legislation (the so called Red Code).

The text provides for a “fast track” to combat violence against women, with faster investigations. In addition, heavier penalties will be imposed in cases of sexual violence and stalking, and the crimes of facial scarring and stopping forced marriages are introduced.

More in detail, as far reporting and investigation the judicial police will have to communicate to the magistrate the factuality of the crime of mistreatment, sexual violence, persecution and aggravated injuries occurred in the family or between cohabitants and the victim must be heard in the following 3 days from the crime report.

As for sexual violence, penalties will rise to 6-12 years; sexual acts with children under 14 years is an aggravating circumstance. In relation to stalking, the imprisonment of the offender goes from a minimum of one year to a maximum of 6 years and six months. For ill-treatment against family



members or cohabiting partners, imprisonment increases from the current 2-6 years to 3-7 years; the penalty is increased by half if the act occurs in the presence of or against a minor, a pregnant woman, a person with disabilities or if the aggression is armed.

The Criminal Code is also enriched with a provision on cases of aggression against a person causing permanent facial injuries. The perpetrator is liable to imprisonment for a period of between eight and fourteen years. If the scarring causes the death of the victim, life imprisonment is imposed and it will be harder for offenders to get benefits such as work outside prison, reward permits and alternative measures.

A stronger punishment is provided for anyone who induces another to marry (even with civil union) using violence, threats or taking advantage of a psycho-physical inferiority or for religious precepts. The penalty ranges from one to five years and it rises to 2-6 years if it involves a minor and is aggravated by half if it damages those who are under 14 years of age at the time of the act.

### **Violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (e.g. cyberviolence, online stalking)**

In 2018 the Minister for Family and Disabilities and the Minister for Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at better informing families about the risks linked to children freely surfing the Web and jointly organized the 2019 Safer Internet Day in Italy. The event took place in February 2019 in Milan, Italy, with the title "Against cyberbullying: a new alliance between schools and families". To better engage with the youth attending the event, the most known Italian youtubers and creators were invited to talk about these topics.

During the event the Department for Family Policies launched a new national communication campaign on the risks of cyberbullying called "Stop al Cyberbullismo" ("Stop Cyberbullying"). The new campaign's main objective is on the one hand to inform families about all the available tools and services for victims of cyberbullying and, on the other, to provide recommendations and suggestions for parents of cyberbullies. The campaign consists of two practical tools: a promotional video on public TV and radio channels and a toolkit (in PDF), both available at <http://www.mfd.gov.it/it/notizie/stop-cyberbullismo-campagna-di-comunicazione-istituzionale/>.

### **Femicide/Femicide**

The current Italian legislation on this topic is in line with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention - ratified by Law No. 77/2013).

Act No. 119/2013 addresses both stalking and GBV, in line with the following three conceptual pillars:

- as for prevention, it strengthens the above "warning" (ammonimento), as well as the gun banning, driving disqualification and the possibility to use electronic tags. Concerning the punishment, new aggravating circumstances are to be mentioned; penalty is increased if children under the age of 18 witness violence as well as if the victim is in a particularly vulnerable situation (if pregnant);
- moreover, femicide is further strengthened by consideration for the specific close relationship between the victim and the perpetrator as an aggravating circumstance (e.g. if the perpetrator is the victim's spouse or partner, also non-cohabiting partner);
- in line with the Istanbul Convention, the Italian law aims at ensuring greater protection for victims both in relation to hearings, which will be protected, and through a system guaranteeing transparency during ongoing investigations and legal proceedings, besides the obligation to inform victims about local support services.
- within the framework of the National Strategic Plan on male violence against women for the period 2017-2020 "Protection and Support Axis - Priority 2.4 Protection and support of child victims

and / or witnesses of intra-family violence", the Central Administration, also with the involvement of the Regions and of the Autonomous Provinces, has adopted initiatives aimed at strengthening and qualifying the protection and care of the children victims of witnessing violence and of orphans, both males and females, of femicide.

Since 2017 and also for 2018, 2019 and 2020 a larger amount of financial resources has been devoted to support the so called special orphans of femicide (from 2 million euros to 2 million and fifty thousand euros, plus 5 million euros for 2019 and 10 million euros for 2020).

On 29 December 2017 a public Notice was issued to finance projects for an amount equalling to 1 million and fifty thousand Euros, for the "Support for children victims of witnessing violence, the orphans of domestic crimes and their foster families". In this context, eligible for financial resources are to be those projects that can promote and develop *ad hoc* facilities and information and support services for foster families entrusted with children who are victims of witnessing violence and orphans of domestic crimes, and those one that can provide assistance, counselling and support for the aforementioned children, by taking into account their specific needs and the extent of the damage suffered. Likewise, eligible for financial resources are to be considered also those projects that can provide training for service providers likely to come into contact with children victims of witnessing violence and children who are orphans of domestic crimes (e.g. law enforcement, health-care workers, social services).

The issue of domestic violence is closely related to the topic of special orphans (orphans due to femicide). According to Art. 26 point 1 (Chapter IV – Protection and support) of the above mentioned Istanbul Convention and in compliance with the contents of the Extraordinary National Action Plan against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence 2017-2020, the Department for Family Policies of the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers is committed to implementing specific initiatives concerning the rights of the child, with particular attention to children witnesses of violence and children orphaned by domestic crimes.

In particular, it is important to underline that, within the Strategic Plan ("Axis protection and support – Priority 2.4 Protection and support of children victim and/or witnesses of violence within the family"), the Department is expected to implement interventions also involving Regions and Autonomous Provinces, aiming at enforcing and improving the protection and the assistance system for children witnesses of domestic violence and orphaned by domestic crimes.

Also, it should be noted that Law No. 232/2016 (Art. 1, para. 146, of the 2017 Budget Law) has included among the victims of intentional violent offences who have the right to be compensated, also "the children of the victim in the case of homicide committed by the spouse, whether separated or divorced, or by a person who is or has been emotionally bound to the victim".

This legislative provision provides for that in determining the limits of compensation for victims of intentional violent offenses, it is ensured, in particular, a greater relief to the children of the victim whose murder was committed by the spouse or partner.

For the sake of completeness, it is necessary to report the text of Art. 11, para. 3, of the above-mentioned Law No. 122/2016 as amended by the 2017 Budget Law: "By decree of the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Justice, in agreement with the Minister of Economy and Finance, to be issued within six months from the date of entry into force of this law, the amount of the indemnity is determined within the limits of the availability of the Fund referred to in Art. 14, ensuring greater relief for the victims of sexual abuses and murders, and , in particular, to the children of victims whose murder has been committed by a spouse, whether separated or divorced, or by a person who is or has been emotionally bound to the victim".

In the 2018 Budget Law (Law No. 205/2017, Art.1.279) the amount for the compensation of the victims of violent crimes (Law No. 122/2016) has increased by 2.5 million euros for 2018, 2019 and

2020. These resources are allocated for scholarships, medical and social expenses orphans victims of domestic crimes.

The 2019 Budget Law envisages 5 million euros for special orphans and their foster families. In particular, 2 million euros are allocated for the funding of scholarships for special orphans and for economically dependent minors or adult children. 3 million euros are allocated for the support and economic assistance for foster families.

Further 10 million euros are allocated starting from 2019 in order to guarantee an adequate compensation to violent crimes victims (homicide, sexual violence, very serious personal injuries).

### **Female genital mutilation**

Female genital mutilation is a core matter for which Italy was one of the supporting countries for the United Nations General Assembly resolution for the worldwide ban on female genital mutilation of 2012.

Since 2006, our country has introduced a specific penal provision for FGM by Act No. 7/2006, which includes the principle of extraterritoriality, meaning that FGM is punishable even if committed overseas by an Italian citizen or by a foreign citizen resident in Italy. The law addresses both the ban and the prevention of FGM, in relation to monitoring the incidence, victim services, awareness-raising, training and guidance for healthcare professionals.

In other terms the legislation aims at:

- strengthening the preventive approach aimed at eradicating the practice both through information interventions aimed at the migrant communities and through training of professionals who come into contact with them;
- improving knowledge and monitoring of the phenomenon through a data collection system on the prevalence and estimation of risk for young girls and female adolescents.

Furthermore the Italian legislation provides for the request of asylum for “acts of physical or psychological violence including sexual violence” by Legislative Decree No. 251/2007.

In the framework of Extraordinary National Action Plan against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, there is a specific focus on "taking care of victims of female genital mutilation".

The Italian Development Cooperation has always been at the side of the priority countries and of the bi- and multilateral actions of the sector to contribute to that change that children today feel increasingly close and concrete, but that must be fully realized, also in view of future generations, without ever lowering our guard. The BanFGM project for the elimination of FGM in the countries of intervention, such as Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal is worth of mentioning. The project aims to contribute to the elimination of FGM by implementing UNGA Resolution 67/146, by assisting governments in reviewing national sector legislation, developing sector actors' skills and law enforcement capacities, and improving the capacity of local actors to undertake advocacy activities for the dissemination of knowledge of legislative instruments. Since its launching (2007), Italy has also been supporting financially the UNFPA/UNICEF Joint Programme to Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation, with a total amount of US\$ 18.81 million. The first two phases of this Initiative have contributing to the achievement of the following results:

- Provision of appropriate and quality services: more than 3.2 million girls and women in the 17 countries supported by the Joint Programme have benefited from FGM-related protection and care services.
- Increased community-led engagement: as a result of community-led engagement through education, dialogue and consensus-building, more than 31.5 million individuals in over 21,700 communities have made public declarations on the abandonment of FGM.

- Legal and policy frameworks: 13 countries supported by the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme have legal and policy frameworks banning FGM. Following intensive capacity development initiatives, to date, there have been more than 900 cases of legal enforcement. Public statements at all levels have announced that FGM is a human right issue and must be stopped. Such statements provide the political backing required to strengthen the community-wide efforts and initiatives.
- Government ownership: all 17 countries supported by the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint programme have a national coordination mechanism in place to systematically engage all actors at the national level. Twelve countries established a national budget line funding services and programmes to specifically address FGM.

The current Phase III (2018-2021) foresees the following targets:

- 8 million girls and women will receive appropriate FGM-related services;
- 19 million people in over 10,000 communities will publicly declare abandonment of FGM;
- 16 countries will have a national budget line and monitoring mechanism;
- Regional and sub-regional political organizations will be mobilized to enhance national efforts;
- The availability of a global online knowledge hub.

### **Trafficking in women and girls**

The first National Action Plan against Trafficking in and Serious Exploitation of Human Beings was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 26 February 2016, in line with Legislative Decree No. 24/2014 transposing Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. The Plan is aimed at identifying multiannual intervention strategies for the prevention and fight against these phenomena, as well as measures aimed at increasing public awareness, social prevention, emergence and social integration of victims.

Within this framework a political and institutional Control Room, chaired by the Undersecretary of State in charge of gender equality, was established. In the SC four ad hoc working groups have been created to work on the THB traditional dimensions of 'Prevention', 'Protection' and 'Cooperation', also covering the relation with the protection system for refugees and asylum seekers. The implementation of the Plan and the results achieved at the national, regional and local level have been monitored through a specific System of Monitoring and Verification.

The NAP reflects a multi-level governance approach encompassing the national level represented by the Department for Equal Opportunities at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers as well as the operational actions developed, performed and managed both at the regional and local level. Indeed many Regions have been involved as Leader Applicants or Partners in the framework of 'Article 18 assistance programmes' funded by the Department along the lines of the ESF Regional Operational Plans (e.g. Piedmont, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany, Liguria, Marche, Umbria, Lazio, Campania, Calabria, Apulia, Trentino Alto-Adige). In this role they provided a great support to victims' assistance, implementing professional training, social and employment integration and social inclusion actions according to a 'system actions' approach with the direct involvement of public administrations/institutional actors (Prefectures, Police headquarters, Carabinieri Corps and financial police provincial headquarters, health authorities, district attorney's offices – Procure) and educational institutions, professional associations, trade unions, private stakeholders.

Since the introduction, in 2014, of the new single program of emergence, assistance and social integration aimed at victims of trafficking, the Department for Equal Opportunities has provided for the preparation of special calls for the identification of projects presented by accredited bodies for the implementation of social assistance and integration programs, registered in the second section of the Register of Bodies and Associations that carry out activities in favor of immigrants, established

at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, giving rise to the Call for Proposals n. 1/2016 (15 million euros) and the n. 2/2017 Call for Proposals (22.5 million euros).

The current Government has continued and strengthened the interventions of the single program, increasing the financial resources available. The projects that were started last March 1, following the selection procedure referred to in the Call n. 3/2018, published on 21 December 2018, amount to 24 million euros. The selected projects are 21, corresponding to as many national territorial areas, 11 of which have been proposed by public bodies (Regions and Municipalities) and the remaining 10 by Associations specialized in combating trafficking. The project actions must be completed within the next 15 months and ensure continuity in terms of taking charge of the victims with the activities financed by the previous Call for Proposals. As soon as the process for registering the commitment decree has been completed, it will be possible to proceed with the disbursement of the first tranche of financing to the beneficiaries.

At the beginning of 2019, moreover, the collaboration agreement with the Municipality of Venice was renewed for the management of the anti-trafficking toll-free number (800 290 290). Already envisaged in the previous NAP, the anti-trafficking toll-free number is an important service of first telephone assistance and qualifies as an action system preparatory to interventions on behalf of victims of trafficking and serious exploitation, operating in close connection with the public subjects of the territory and with the projects that implement the unique Program on the territory. The toll-free number is also responsible for the implementation and management of the Computerized System for Collecting Information on the Slab (SIRIT) in collaboration with the Ministries concerned, the Regions and local authorities as well as with the relevant associations in order to monitor the cases treated and the protection and prevention measures for victims' rights, also to allow Italy to fully fulfill the data collection and analysis function required by EU Directive 36/2011.

In support of the Control Room, the Technical Committee operates, appointed with Prime Ministerial Decree of 10 April 2019 and composed of representatives of central and local administrations, law enforcement, third sector bodies involved in the fight against human trafficking and unions. The Committee will have to support the Control room in all its functions, first of all collaborating in the drafting of the new National Anti-trafficking Action Plan 2019-2021.

Italy offers social protection and integration programs and services to victims of trafficking and violence. The associations entitled to offer such programs to victims of trafficking must be enrolled in a specific national Register, held by the Directorate-General for immigration and integration policies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Art. 52 of Presidential Decree No. 394/1999). At present time, the number of enrolled associations is 164. According to Art. 1, para. 220, of the Law No. 205 of 27 December 2017, social cooperatives that hire with open-ended contracts women victims of gender-based violence are given a contributory reduction for 36 months, with a maximum limit of 350 euros on a monthly basis. To that end, social cooperatives must submit the certification issued by the social services of the municipality of residence or by the anti-violence centers, stating the interested women' situation.

#### **14. What actions has your country prioritized in the last five years to address violence against women and girls?**

X Introduced or strengthened violence against women laws, and their enforcement and implementation

X Introduced, updated or expanded national action plans on ending violence against women and girls

- X Introduced or strengthened measures to increase women's access to justice (e.g. establishment of specialist courts, training for the judiciary and police, protection orders, redress and reparations, including for femicide cases)
- X Introduced or strengthened services for survivors of violence (e.g. shelters, help lines, dedicated health services, legal, justice service, counselling, housing)
- X Introduced or strengthened strategies to prevent violence against women and girls (e.g. in the education sector, in the media, community mobilization, work with men and boys)
- X Monitoring and evaluation of impact, including evidence generation and data collection, including regarding particular groups of women and girls
- X Introduced or strengthened measures for improving the understanding of causes and consequences of violence against women among those responsible for implementing measures on ending violence against women and girls
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

Please refer to Questions n. 1-2-15.

**Introduced or strengthened violence against women laws, and their enforcement and implementation; Introduced, updated or expanded national action plans on ending violence against women and girls; Introduced or strengthened measures to increase women's access to justice (e.g. establishment of specialist courts, training for the judiciary and police, protection orders, redress and reparations, including for femicide cases); Introduced or strengthened strategies to prevent violence against women and girls (e.g. in the education sector, in the media, community mobilization, work with men and boys)**

Violence against women is a cross-cutting phenomenon and a multifaceted problem, which has overwhelming effects on individuals, communities and societies, also entailing significant economic and social costs for our Countries and requiring global responses. It is necessary to adopt a holistic and systematic approach that includes not only legislative and policy measures but also concrete actions for the prevention of the phenomenon, the protection of victims and the prosecution of offenders, as well as immediate compensation for victims and adequate data collection.

On 7 July 2015 the Extraordinary Action Plan Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence was adopted by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers with the aim of establishing a multi-level governance system of public policies for combating such phenomena and supporting their victims, through a total allocation of 40 million euros for 4 years.

Under the Plan framework, on 25 July 2016, an Inter-institutional Steering Committee was established. The Committee was chaired by the President of the Ministers' Council/the political Authority in charge of gender equality and composed by: Minister of Health, Minister of Regional Affairs, Autonomies and Family Policies, as well as by the representatives of the competent Ministries (Interior; Justice; Education; Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Economic Development; Defence; Economy and Finance; Labour; Simplification and Public Administration), and of the Regions and local Authorities. The Committee gathered 3 times (8 September 2016, 22 November 2016, and

2 March 2017) to take stock of the Italian Government's initiatives that are being taken to combat GBV.

Furthermore, on 21 November 2016, the first meeting of the National Observatory on Violence was convened in compliance with the above Plan. The second meeting took place on 23 March 2017. Within the Observatory, the following 3 Working Groups have been established:

- (a) WG 1 on "Legislation" — aimed at proposing amendments to the legal framework on GBV;
- (b) WG 2 on "Protection paths" — aimed at defining Guidelines on new protection paths for victims of GBV;
- (c) WG 3 on "Strategic Framework" — aimed at defining the future strategic framework of the next relevant National Action Plan against GBV.

Within this framework, on the International Women's Day-2016, a 12 million euros Public Call for Proposals for the financing of projects for the strengthening of shelters and assistance services to women victims of violence and their children, as well as for the enhancement of the local services network was launched.

Through Decree of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of 25 November 2016, the Government has allocated further 18 million euros for the period 2017-2018 to Regions, to finance the opening of new anti-violence Centers and shelters and the strengthening of the already existing ones.

Furthermore, within the framework of the implementation of para. 4 of the Plan, through an additional Decree of 25 November 2016, the Government has allocated further 13 million euros to be distributed among Regions and Autonomous Provinces for the implementation of projects and actions on: training of health personnel of hospitals' emergency rooms; promotion of victim's entry to the labour market; access to public housing for victims; establishment of systems for the collection of data on the phenomenon at the local level. As of April 2017, 501 are the safe shelters (anti-violence Centers and women's refuges) in Italy.

The commitment in this area was renewed at the time of the elaboration of the new National Strategic Plan on male violence against women for the period 2017-2020, which is in line with the key national and international standards on the subject, such as the Istanbul Convention and the Roadmap G7.

Moreover it is important to underline that on 16 February 2018, Law No. 4/2018 entered into force, containing amendments to the Civil Code, Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure in favor of children orphaned by domestic crimes. The Law is aimed at guaranteeing to these children a suitable psychological support; the access to measures to ensure their right to education and access to the labor market; free legal aid; the prohibition of the pension reversibility for the murderer; the possibility for the orphan to change his/her last name in case it was the same of the parent definitively convicted. The above mentioned Law also modifies some provisions of Civil and Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, defining such orphans as economically not self-sufficient minors or adult children who lost one of the parents after a homicide perpetrated by one of them against the other spouse. The spouse could be defined whether separated or divorced, from the other side of the civil union (even if the civil union has ended) or from the person who is or has been engaged in a personal relationship or in a stable one.

The measures concern:

- the access to free legal assistance by way of derogation from the limits of the income provided;
- the free access to medical and psychological assistance services;
- the provision of public housing;
- the entitled to change the surname;
- the extension to those persons of the Fund for mob victims, usury and violent intentional crimes, with the provision of an annual increase of the allocation by 2 million euros, to be allocated for

orphans scholarships and for the financing of projects for their orientation, training and integration in the labour market.

**Introduced or strengthened services for survivors of violence (e.g. shelters, help lines, dedicated health services, legal, justice service, counselling, housing)**

The toll free number 1522 was launched in 2006 by the Department for Equal Opportunities with the aim of developing a broad system of action for the emergence and contrast of the phenomenon of intra and extra-family violence to the detriment of women. In 2009, with the entry into force of Law No. 38/2009 amended in 2013 on persecutory acts, it also started support action for stalking victims. The public utility number 1522 is active 24 hours a day, every day of the year and is accessible from the entire national territory for free, both from landline and mobile. The reception is available in Italian, English, French, Spanish and Arabic languages. Dedicated telephone service operators provide a first response to the needs of victims of gender-based violence and stalking by providing useful information and guidance to public and private social-health services present on national territory and included in the official mapping of the Presidency of the Council-Department for Equal Opportunities. 1522, through the help of the victims, supports the emergence of the demand for aid, with absolute assurance of anonymity. Cases of violence that are of an emergency character are welcomed with a specific technical-operational procedure shared with the Police/Carabinieri.

In Italy a Children Emergency Number (114 – Emergenza Infanzia) is currently active. This is an emergency helpline which is active 24 hours a day and can be called free of charge from all over the country by anyone wanting to report dangerous situations involving children.

The Minister for Family and Disabilities is the political authority designated to coordinate all the activities related to prevention, assistance, legal advice, and protection of children by sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. The topic of domestic violence is closely related to the topic of the so-called special orphans (children orphaned by domestic crimes). In this regard, in 2017 the Department for Family Policies published a Call for Proposals aiming at financing innovative projects for the support to fragile families, the social inclusion of children and adolescents, and the support to children witnesses of domestic violence, children orphaned by domestic crimes and their foster families (the funds envisaged for each priority amount respectively to 2.200.000,00 euros, 1.000.000 euros, 1.050.000,00 euros).

Through this Call for proposal, the Department funded:

- projects for the development of structures and information and supporting services for foster families of children witnesses of domestic violence and children orphaned by domestic crimes and to guarantee assistance, counseling and support to these children, taking into account their specific needs and the importance of the suffered damage;
- projects for the carrying out of training courses for all professionals who could get in touch with children witnesses of domestic violence and children orphaned by domestic crimes (e.g. police, health and social workers).

Almost 60 project proposals have been received by the Department for Family Policies. Also initiatives financed under the European Social Fund are currently being carried out at national level on this topic.

**Monitoring and evaluation of impact, including evidence generation and data collection, including regarding particular groups of women and girls; Introduced or strengthened measures for improving the understanding of causes and consequences of violence against women among those responsible for implementing measures on ending violence against women and girls**



In line with the provisions established by the Extraordinary Action Plan Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence 2015-2017, on 15 November 2016 the structure for the setting up of a specific National Database on gender-based violence was defined and will be implemented through the Memorandum of Understanding with ISTAT. It envisages *inter alia* that ISTAT be the coordinating body of the National Database and the entity mainly responsible for it. In its coordination activity, ISTAT has collaborated with experts from the Entities and Ministries producing administrative data on this topic, including shelters. The National Database has collected data deriving from sample surveys, as well as administrative data and data collected by shelters.

This commitment was reiterated within the National Strategic Plan on male violence against women for the period 2017-2020 for strengthening both the investigation and understanding of causes and consequences of violence against women and the data collection and related monitoring and assessment of the phenomenon all over the national territory.

In compliance with Law No. 97/2018 concerning the reorganization of competences of ministries, including on the topics of family and disabilities, the new Minister for Family and Disabilities now exclusively exercises the Government's functions concerning the National Observatory for Childhood and Adolescence, the National Centre for the Documentation and Analysis for Childhood and Adolescence, the Observatory for the Fight against Paedophilia and Child Pornography.

In particular, the latter Observatory is a strategic body for the analysis and monitoring of the phenomenon established within the Department with the task of collecting and monitoring data and information on the activities carried out by all public administrations for the prevention and punishment of the sexual exploitation and abuse of children and is composed by the main administrations and national associations in charge of the fight against child sexual exploitation and abuse.

In particular, the Observatory: collects national and international data and information on the activities implemented for the prevention and punishment of the sexual exploitation and abuse of children, as well as on the prevention strategies planned and implemented also by other countries; analyses, studies and elaborates the data provided by other public administrations; promotes surveys and research on the phenomenon; informs about its activity, including through the institutional website of the Department and the dissemination of dedicated publications; drafts an annual technical and scientific report on the implemented activities to be used, *inter alia*, for the preparation of the annual Report of the President of the Council of Ministers to the Parliament on the topic; takes part in the activities carried out by the European and international bodies competent for the protection of children and fight against child sexual exploitation and abuse; drafts the National Plan for the Prevention and Fight against Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, which is an integral part of the National Plan for Childhood and Adolescence.

The main instrument through which the coordination activity of the Observatory is carried out is the National Plan for the Prevention and Fight against Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse 2016-2018, adopted by Decree of the President of the Republic of 31 August 2016. For the implementation of the National Plan for the Prevention and Fight against of Child Sexual Exploitation and abuse 2016-2018 specific financial resources (2.500.000 euros) have been committed in the national budget law. Within the framework of the Plan, four strategic areas have been identified representing the lines of action according to which the involved administrations developed coordinated actions and interventions, namely: prevention of the phenomenon, protection of victims, fight against crimes, monitoring of the phenomenon. For each area specific objectives and linked actions have also been identified such as, *inter alia*, the provision of training activities for children and operators, awareness-raising activities for the general public, actions to combat sexual tourism and online child

pornography, the implementation of specific techniques for the child hearing, as well as a monitoring activity for the drafting of specific Guidelines identifying the basic level of protection and educational support activities for child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

The Observatory for the fight against Pedophilia and child pornography acts through a national Database, specifically established under Law No. 269 of 1998 (as amended by Law No. 38/2006).

The specific aim of the database is to organize and systematically integrate the information and assets of the various central and local administrations, allowing an overview and a more in-depth knowledge of the phenomenon of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. The highly innovative element of this tool is represented by the change in perspective that it proposes to assume with respect to the existing information systems: the Observatory database, in fact, shifts the focus of attention from the perpetrators and from the crime itself to the victim, making them the main subject of analysis.

More in details, the database intends to pursue the following objectives: a) acquire and harmonize the data of the external databases - and therefore of the other public administrations - thus enhancing the principle of cooperation between central administrations; b) verify the extent of specific criminal phenomena; c) analyze the variations of the criminal phenomena in space and time; d) derive characteristic profiles of victims of violence and of authors; e) identify elements characterizing the detection and reporting, contrast and protection measures; f) use the information to support the identification of priorities in the planning of actions to protect victims; g) ensure timeliness in the availability of information. To date, the database contains data provided by the Ministry of the Interior, the Department of Juvenile Justice of the Ministry of Justice and ISTAT.

## 15. What strategies has your country used in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls?

- X Public awareness raising and changing of attitudes and behaviours
- X Work in primary and secondary education, including comprehensive sexuality education
- X Grassroots and community-level mobilization
- Shifting the representation of women and girls in the media
- Working with men and boys
- Perpetrator programmes
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

Please refer to Questions n. 13-14.

In synergy with the policies of the European Union and the Council of Europe, transversal to the lines of prevention and protection, it is important to emphasize the value of the Extraordinary National Action Plan action plan against sexual and gender-based violence 2017-2020 configured as a system of governance of the phenomenon between the different levels of government on the territory and with a total allocation of 40 million euros.

Developed also with the contribution of the civil society associations involved in the fight against violence and of the anti-violence centers with the aim of guaranteeing homogeneous actions on the

national territory, the Plan was adopted subject to the agreement of the Unified Conference and acts through a plurality of actions in different areas.

Focusing on the four main axes of prevention, protection, persecution and integrated policies, the plan involves all the competent Public Administrations and provides for:

- Actions aimed at supporting recovery programs for men perpetrators of violence (art. 16 Istanbul Convention);
- Actions aimed at developing an intervention that prevents the reproduction and repetition of violence in Italy against migrant women;
- Taking charge of victims of female genital mutilation;
- Support for femicide orphans and children victims of direct and assisted violence;
- Initiatives to combat male violence against women perpetrated in the workplace;
- A clear and transparent resource management mechanism;
- A system for monitoring and evaluating the actions implemented and to be carried out by means of specific criteria and indicators, in clear adhesion to the Convention of the Council of Europe on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

On 24 July 2017, a public notice was issued by the Department for Equal Opportunities for the financing of projects aimed at preventing and combating violence against women, also in implementation of the Istanbul Convention, making available resources amounting to 10 million euros, a public notice to the purpose of promoting and supporting a series of project interventions, including those of an innovative nature, aimed at improving the implementation of all the obligations arising from the Istanbul Convention by strengthening the intervention capacities of general and specialized services and the wider involvement of possible beneficiaries on the issues of violence.

Specifically, the projects that can be financed pertain to the following lines of intervention:

- A. projects aimed at improving the capacity to take charge and protect migrant women, including refugee women;
- B. projects aimed at improving the methods of employment of women victims of violence;
- C. supporting projects for women and those who identify themselves as female prisoners who have suffered violence and awareness-raising actions on the issue of violence specific to the context of penitentiary institutions;
- D. treatment programs for abusive men;
- E. innovative projects of support and protection of women also subjected to the so called 'economic' violence;
- F. communication projects aimed at raising awareness and territorial prevention of gender violence, as well as education projects concerning cultural, artistic and sporting activities, to promote changes in socio-cultural behavior, eliminating prejudices, customs, traditions and any other practice based on stereotyped models of the roles of women and men.

The parties admitted to are proceeding to transmit all the documentation useful for the purposes of the liquidation of the payment tranche. The activities of most of the project proposals related to the different lines of intervention have already started.

By decree of the Department for Equal Opportunities, a Monitoring Committee was set up for detailed analysis, also through on-site interventions, of the activities carried out by each beneficiary, in order to verify their correspondence to what is described in the project proposals admitted to financing.

**16. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (online sexual harassment, online stalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images)?**

- X Introduced or strengthened legislation and regulatory provisions
- X Implemented awareness raising initiatives targeting the general public and young women and men in educational settings
- Worked with technology providers to set and adhere to good business practices
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

Please refer to Question n. 13.

### **Introduced or strengthened legislation and regulatory provisions**

With the aim of combating gender-based violence online, it is important to recall two recent legislative proposals, currently under discussion in Parliament.

The first introduces the phenomenon of the so-called revenge porn, i.e. the dissemination of images or videos, including via the web, of a sexual nature, and provides for the introduction of repressive measures for those who disseminate images or movies containing sexual representations, made, acquired or transmitted without the consent of the concerned person, with a reasonable expectation of confidentiality. The action is more severely punished if it is spread through the Internet or through the use of digital technologies, instant messaging and digital multi-platforms.

The second proposal refers to the phenomenon of hate speech, or incitement to hatred and violence against persons or social groups on the basis of certain characteristics (ethnicity, religion, origin, particular physical or mental conditions), gender identity and sexual orientation included. Hate speech, as we all know, today takes place more and more often through the diffusion and distribution of messages, images or other material also through the Internet, social networks or other digital platforms: therefore, it is more necessary than ever to act so that in particular the main Internet and social networks' providers cooperate in a preventive and active way in the fight against discrimination and related actions of gender hatred and violence on line.

### **Implemented awareness raising initiatives targeting the general public and young women and men in educational settings**

Within the framework of the CREATIVE (Changing Relationships through Education and Awareness Towards ending Violence against women) Project, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers provided for the elaboration and dissemination of a digital APP (and a related supporting document for teachers) informing youngsters on the phenomenon of and the risks related to bullying and cyberbullying. The APP will provide information in a youth-friendly language through games, comics, quizzes, etc. The tool will be available free of charge for downloading from the main mobile online stores. Knowledge of the APP will be raised among students by the Ministry of Education, University and Research through a specific communication to all lower secondary schools in Italy together with one-page guidelines for teachers to explain the importance of the APP's contents. Following the dissemination of the APP, a public competition for lower secondary schools on this topic will be organized by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Furthermore, in 2016, the same Presidency signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Authority for Childhood and Adolescence

providing for, inter alia, the collaboration aimed at disseminating knowledge on the rights of children and adolescents in order to prevent bullying and cyberbullying.

**17. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to address the portrayal of women and girls, discrimination and/or gender bias in the media?**

- Enacted, strengthened and enforced legal reforms to combat discrimination and/or gender bias in the media
- Introduced binding regulation for the media, including for advertising
- Supported the media industry to develop voluntary codes of conduct
- Provided training to media professionals to encourage the creation and use of non-stereotypical, balanced and diverse images of women and girls in the media
- Promoted the participation and leadership of women in the media
- Established or strengthened consumer protection services to receive and review complaints about media content or gender-based discrimination/bias in the media
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

Overcoming cultural prejudice and stereotypical concepts is one of the main UNAR's goals. To this end, the Office strengthened its Contact Center, establishing the "Media and Internet Observatory" through which it works every day to detect the potential hate speech cases. The Observatory is supplied with a software, which works on the basis of a set of keywords search, as selected by the Office itself and based upon data from scientific literature and from the practical experience of the Office's work against discriminations. Thousands of contents are analyzed day-by-day: a substantial part of the contents is catalogued and included in thematic reports and another part, which numerically represents a lower proportion but, equally, considered of a strongly discriminatory nature, is reported to the social networks for the removal or for law enforcement's investigation and prosecution. Furthermore, over the years, UNAR Contact Center operators have listened thousands of victims of discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, religious affiliation, age, conditions of disability, sexual orientation and gender identity grounds. The operators offer immediate assistance to victims of discrimination by providing information, guidance and psychological support, besides accompanying the victims of discrimination to the court if they decide to act for the purpose of detecting and repressing the injurious behaviour. A close cooperation has been established with OSCAD, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding in April 2011 by which to define cooperation - so as to optimize their results.

**Supported the media industry to develop voluntary codes of conduct; Provided training to media professionals to encourage the creation and use of non-stereotypical, balanced and diverse images of women and girls in the media**

The National Service Contract is an agreed Text of a five-year term concerning the activities that the concessionary company must perform to fulfil the task of serving the public in the territory of the Italian Republic. In particular, RAI must ensure a public service offering based on the principles of

impartiality, independence and pluralism, so that everyone can autonomously form opinions and ideas and participate actively and consciously in the life of the country, besides ensuring learning and development of the critical, civil and ethical sense of the national community, including when abroad, by respecting the law and information-related duties, the truth of the facts, and the right to be informed. Within the above framework, the Service Contract stipulates that RAI promotes, within its own television programming, a real and non-stereotypical depiction of the women's situation. In fact, RAI must ensure the spread, on any platform and by any broadcasting system, of the most comprehensive and pluralist representation of the roles that women play in society, as well as the elaboration of contents aimed at preventing and combating all forms of violence against women. As part of the activities implemented by RAI Corporation, the protection of fundamental rights and the dissemination of equal opportunities between genders guide the creation of editorial content. The attention RAI pays to women's depiction in its TV series is confirmed by the female roles represented.

In addition to RAI fiction-related production, mention has to be made also of RAI Cinema production and/or distribution, the so-called "factual", and the sports columns which are particularly attentive to the correct portrayal of women. RAI continuously examines its own programming and, in particular, the representation of women within its publishing offer, by carrying out an annual monitoring based upon three surveys:

1. A quantitative research, based on the analysis of contents. For this investigation, a timely reporting system has been also activated for any possible critical cases;
2. A qualitative research, conducted on the public's perception through the focus group technique;
3. A quantitative survey, conducted on the public through a specific question of the "Qualitel" questionnaire, in order to assess the correct representation of the female role within programs.

The results of the monitoring and the related annual report are published on the RAI's website, in line with the principles of transparency.

RAI also activates training courses for its employees, service providers and external collaborators so that in all the programmes, it is ensure the use of language and images that are respectful, non-discriminatory and non-stereotyped with regard to women. Along these lines, broadcasting discriminatory advertising messages or those that feed gender stereotypes is also prohibited.

Such a complex and multifaceted phenomenon pushes RAI Corporation to both develop an ever increasing editorial responsibility towards the public and increasingly implement accurate monitoring systems, so that the Public Service actively contributes to generating, in the public opinion, greater awareness of violence's prevention and fight against gender-based violence and domestic violence. RAI does not want to restrict itself solely to the formal respect of contractual obligations but rather interprets the sensitive role of the Public Service by combating all forms of violence through a storytelling that values the role of women and of human dignity in general and by contributing to foster Country's values and culture.

Ultimately, RAI can be considered virtuous in its approach to the female role and to the fight against gender-based violence and domestic violence. It is also considered essential to continue to pay attention constantly to the consolidation of a specific corporate sensitivity with regard to the correct depiction of women and against any forms of discrimination and violence.

In 2016 the National Communications Authority (AGCOM) adopted Resolution No. 424/16/CONS, containing "Guidance on respect for human dignity and the principle of non-discrimination in information and entertainment programs ". By this measure AGCOM recalled the media services to ensure respect for fundamental human rights in the field of information and entertainment programs, with specific regard to people at risk of discrimination in order to ensure respect for human dignity, human rights, and the principle of non-discrimination.

This Authority carries out intense supervisory and sanctioning-related activities in the field of protection of users, by initiating proceedings and imposing the relating sanctions in case of proven violations.

In 2017, AGCOM adopted Resolution No. 171/17/CSP by which it condemned RAI to pay a fine of 50,000.00 euros for the violation of the provisions pursuant to Art. 34, para. 2, of Legislative Decree of 31 July 2005 No. 177, in relation to provisions of para. 3.1 of the Media and Children Self-governing Code: in a program broadcast on RAI Uno channel "Parliamone sabato (Let's talk about it on Saturdays)", it was launched a debate on the role of Italian women and women's from Eastern Europe. In this program "it emerged an image of women imbued with prejudices and surrounded by a palpable veil of discrimination fuelled by a simplified and superficial depiction of women's characteristics belonging to the two groups of population, thus contributing to transmit a female's imaginary characterized by "Stereotypes".

In 2016, AGCOM adopted an important Resolution (No. 444/17/CONS) "Recommendation on the correct portrayal of women in the news-type and entertainment programs", by which this Authority recalls the communication services to effectively guarantee the protection of fundamental human rights and respect for the principle of non-discrimination, in particular in information and entertainment programs.

#### **Promoted the participation and leadership of women in the media**

The Corecoms (the Regional Communication Committees) perform some AGCOM delegated functions within the de-centralized communication system. Various Corecoms have promoted initiatives on "Women and the Media". For example, Corecom-Lazio and Corecom-Emilia Romagna issued official Protocols, on the correct and non-stereotyped representation of genders and standards of information, with full respect for women (Memorandum of Understanding "Women and the Media", proposed by Corecom Emilia Romagna in 2014 and Memorandum of Understanding "Women and the Media in Lazio", proposed by Corecom Lazio in 2016, respectively).

#### **18. Has your country taken any action in the last five years specifically tailored to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination?**

**YES/NO**

*If YES, please list them and provide up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

Please refer to Question n. 14.

#### **Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions**

**Critical areas of concern:**

- G. Women in power and decision-making
- H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
- I. Human rights of women
- J. Women and the media
- L. The girl child

**19. What actions and measures has your country taken in the last five years to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making?**

X Reformed constitution, laws and regulations that promote women's participation in politics, especially at decision-making level, including electoral system reform, adoption of temporary special measures, such as quotas, reserved seats, benchmarks and targets

Implemented capacity building, skills development and other measures

Encouraged the participation of minority and young women, including through sensitization and mentorship programmes

Provided opportunities for mentorship, training in leadership, decision-making, public speaking, self-assertion, political campaigning

Taken measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish violence against women in politics

X Collected and analyzed data on women's political participation, including in appointed and elected positions

Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

Through a legislative provision which, since 2011, has introduced in Italy the obligation for companies to have a fair gender representation in the administrative and control bodies of companies, the percentage of women holding top positions in the economic sphere has significantly increased, reaching more than 33% in 2018 for listed companies, compared to 6% in existence before the introduction of the regulation. This increase was also evident for public companies where the percentage of women on boards is 32.1%.

The results, broking a glass ceiling that lasted for years, prove that the legislation is a useful tool with respect to the objective of increasing the number of women in top positions and also show a positive correlation between women's empowerment and the improvement of company performances.

The Department for Equal Opportunities acting as a supervisory body initiated 391 administrative proceedings against many companies falling within the scope of application of the legislation, whose composition of the boards of directors and / or boards of statutory auditors did not comply with the principle of gender balance and, therefore, are in conflict with the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 251/2012.

The Consolidated Law on publicly-owned companies (Legislative Decree No. 175 of 19 August 2016) reinforces the principle of gender balance in public companies, requiring that at least one third of the appointments of directors of public companies be made by the less represented gender.



In order to ensure support for initiatives for a larger female entrepreneurial nature and to encourage greater employment opportunities, since 2013 the Italian Government has launched a significant action to this purpose by providing a public guarantee in support of Italian SMEs to cover financial transactions aimed at business activities carried out by female companies. The aim of this initiative was to intervene on difficulties of access to credit, which is the main problem faced by women in undertaking business activities and self-employment.

The number of women's businesses that have benefited from this guarantee is more than 16,000 and the number of banks involved in this operation represent about 42%, allocating a ceiling of about 1.3 million euros to businesses with a predominantly female participation and for self-employed women. Furthermore the percentage of women holding top positions in both the economic and political spheres has increased significantly in Italy thanks to a series of interventions, positive actions and experiments with good practices that have led to results that place Italy at the forefront of the European scenario.

On the subject of the conferral of managerial positions, Law No. 124/2015 also provided for n conferring on the Government the delegation for the reform of management, expressly stating that gender balance is one among the key criteria in the conferral of positions (Art. 11, para. 1, letter h). At the same time the Law provided for the establishment of a Commission called upon to operate with full autonomy of assessment and with the mandate of verifying compliance with the criteria for the assignment of tasks, requiring the respect for equal opportunities in order to ensure a balance between genders.

**20. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase women's access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media, including through information and communication technologies (ICT)?**

X Strengthened the provision of formal and technical vocational education and training (TVET) in media and ICTs, including in areas of management and leadership

- Taken measures to enhance access, affordability and use of ICTs for women and girls (e.g. free wifi hubs, community technology centers)
- Introduced regulations to advance equal pay, retention and career advancement of women within the media and ICT field
- Collaborated with employers in the media and ICT field to improve internal policies and hiring practices on a voluntary basis
- Provided support to women's media networks and organizations
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

The Italian Government has adopted the Italian Digital Agenda, in line with the EU 2020 Strategy, in particular the European Digital Agenda, which provides inter alia for the development of digital culture in the EU by 2020. In this context, Italy has drawn up its own Strategy (March 2015), which also highlights the synergies and complementarities of national and regional actions and a specific national plan that focuses on "Digital Growth". In this context, Italy attaches great importance to the theme of education as a prerequisite for growth and development.

In this regard, we recall the National Plan for the Digital School - whose Action #20 focuses on female students and the need to fill the so-called "confidence gaps".

Italy has a very low level of financial literacy. This is a problem in many countries, but in our country the average level of knowledge is worrisome.

In 2017 in Italy entered into force a Law 17 February 2017 n. 15 on "Urgent provisions for the protection of savings in the credit sector" that establishes measures and interventions aimed at developing financial education, insurance and social security and the implementation of a national Strategy for financial Education, Insurance and social security.

The implementation of a national strategy is assigned to the Committee for the planning and coordination of financial education activities composed of eleven members, and is chaired by a director, appointed by the Minister of Economy and Finance, in agreement with the Ministry of Education, University and Research, chosen among personalities with proven expertise and experience in the field.

The Committees task is to plan and promote awareness-raising and financial education initiatives for example in Italy the last October was realized: the month of financial education

With the implementation of the European Project CLEAR the Department for Equal Opportunities will be responsible for the implementation of the strategy for networking, dissemination, and public communication about Economic Financial Literacy.

**21. Do you track the proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?**

YES/NO

**If YES, what is the approximate proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women?**

*Please provide information on the specific areas in which these resources have been invested as well as reflections on achievements and challenges encountered in making budgets gender-responsive.*

Please refer to Questions n. 2-8.

In 2016 Legislative Decree No. 90/2016 amended Act No. 196/2009 on public accounting and finance by introducing in Art. 38-septies, the experimental adoption of gender budgeting for the impact assessment of budget policies on women and men in terms of money, services, unpaid time and work. The measure was aimed at evaluating the different effects of budget policies on women and men, respectively.

State gender budget will be formulated in relation to the annual budget report, so that the current year will be reported under the 2016 report. To this end, Administrations are working to define the spending items to be included by reclassifying them according to the objective to be reached.

By Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers together with the Ministry of Economy and Finance of 16 June 2017 that the first experimental stage "of the adoption of gender budgeting" has been start up, "to evaluate the different impact of budget policies on men and women, in terms of money, services, time and unpaid work".

This forecast, introduced in the state budget format as reformed in 2016, must therefore be a powerful gender mainstreaming tool that analyses and contributes to reducing the lack of equality of genders in all sector policies and therefore aids full promotion of a person's rights and of equal opportunities.

This experiment, which involves all central state administrations, including branches and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, will on the one hand require a reclassification of state budget spending to: a) neutral, with regard to gender; b) sensitive, i.e. that they have a different impact on men and women; c) destined to reduce lack of gender equality and on the other and identification of statistical indicators in order to monitor the actions taken to affect lack of gender equality.

The Department for Equal Opportunities works together with the Ministry of Economy and Finance and ISTAT in order to identify useful indicators for monitoring the impact of separate gender policies in the national statistics plan.

**22. As a donor country, does your country track the proportion of official development assistance (ODA) that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?**

YES/NO

Not applicable

**If YES, please provide further information on the methodology, the scope of tracking, past trends and current proportion of investments.**

Italy applies the OECD-DAC Directives on ODA Reporting and follows the OECD-DAC methodology to track gender equality and women's empowerment in development co-operation.

Specific policy guidance on gender mainstreaming focuses on the need to undertake gender based analyses and to consider gender equality and women's empowerment as key elements of project design. Italy applies a twin-track approach via (1) specific investments that target women and their specific needs; and (2) mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment across all programming. As an example, Italy's aid to water and sanitation is almost all (96%) in support of gender equality.

In 2017, USD 655 million of bilateral ODA supported gender equality. In 2017, 57% of Italy's bilateral sector-allocable aid had gender equality and women's empowerment as a principal or significant objective (up from 38% in 2016), compared with the DAC country average of 36%.

**23. Does your country have a valid national strategy or action plan for gender equality?**

YES/NO

**If YES, please list the name of the plan and the period it covers, its priorities, funding and alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the targets under SDG 5.**

**If YES, has the national action plan been costed and have sufficient resources been allocated to its achievement in the current budget?**

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.

**24. Does your country have an action plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if a State party), or of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review or other United Nations human rights mechanisms that address gender inequality/discrimination against women?**

YES/NO

**If YES, please provide some highlights of the action plans and timeline for implementation.**

As for CEDAW, we are currently in the process of follow-up reply (by July 2019) further to relevant Concluding Observations 2017. Moreover, we promptly translated the above last COs, shared with both CSOs and interested parliamentarians and parliamentary offices, such as the office of the then president of the Chamber of Deputies.

As for last third National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, please kindly note this consists of 7 Objectives, 44 Actions and qualitative and quantitative indicators. In this respect, for additional information, please kindly refer to: [www.cidu.esteri.it](http://www.cidu.esteri.it).

**25. Is there a national human rights institution in your country?**

YES/ NO  
NO.

**If YES, does it have a specific mandate to focus on gender equality or discrimination based on sex/gender?**

**If YES, please provide up to three examples of how the NHRI has promoted gender equality. (2 pages max.)**

**Peaceful and inclusive societies**

**Critical areas of concern:**

- E. Women and armed conflict
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

**26. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to build and sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda?**

- X Adopted and/or implemented a National Action Plan on women, peace and security
- X Integrated women, peace and security commitments into key national and inter-ministerial policy, planning and monitoring frameworks
- Used communication strategies, including social media, to increase awareness of the women, peace and security agenda
- X Increased budgetary allocations for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda
- Taken steps to reduce excessive military expenditures and/or control the availability of armaments
- Re-allocated funds from military spending to social and economic development, including for gender equality and the empowerment of women

X Supported inclusive and gender-sensitive conflict analysis, early warning and prevention mechanisms

Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

### **Adopted and/or implemented a National Action Plan on women, peace and security**

Italy's Third National Action Plan, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) 2016 – 2019 ensures that a gender perspective will be incorporated in all political areas supporting the concept of peace and will be adopted in all practical measures used for the promotion and protection of peace.

By adopting the National Action Plan, Italy aims at: (i) promoting and strengthening the actions undertaken by all relevant Authorities involved in the implementation of the present Plan; (ii) broadening the scope for action by stakeholders in view of the rapid development in this area – as indicated, inter alia, in the last relevant UNSCR 2242 (2015), adopted in October 2015, which considers the need to address existing “Challenges”, including violent extremism, IDPs, and Refugees, and the global impact of climate change; invites Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, and resolution of conflict; and recognizes the lack of adequate gender-sensitive humanitarian responses; (iii) further promoting systematization of actions, based on an integrated approach.

In particular the ultimate aims of the actions undertaken under Italy's present NAP are, as follows:

1. To reduce the impact of conflict on women and girls, while promoting their meaningful and transformational participation in the processes of prevention, mitigation, and resolution of conflict, as well as in decision-making processes, at all levels;
2. To raise awareness, educating and strengthening existing structures, on Women, Peace and Security Agenda and related issues.

The National Action Plan is organized around seven Goals (Thematic Areas) - which consider Commitments, Actions, Actor/s concerned, and Indicators that reflect the content of relevant UNSCRs and international and regional standards:

Goal 1 Strengthen the role of women in peace processes and in all decision-making processes

Goal 2 Continue to promoting a gender perspective in peace operations

Goal 3 Continue to ensuring specific training on the various and cross-cutting aspects of UNSCR 1325(2000), in particular to personnel taking part in peace operations

Goal 4 Further enhance women's presence in the national Armed Forces and within national Police forces, by strengthening their role in decision-making processes related to peace missions

Goal 5 Protect human rights of women and girls, in conflict and post-conflict areas

Goal 6 Increase synergies with civil society, to implement UNSCR1325(2000)

Goal 7 Strategic communication and result-oriented advocacy.

The National Action Plan also includes a set of indicators inspired by both indicators contained in UN Secretary-General Report on Women, Peace and Security (S/2010/173)<sup>2</sup> and those ones under the Comprehensive Approach to the EU implementation of the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security (Doc. 2010 - 11948/10), as recently updated at the EU level (September 2016). It thus

aims to advance the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, both nationally and internationally, as enlisted in the Implementation Framework.

The National Action Plan endorses a multi-stakeholder approach: a national open-ended (inter-ministerial and participatory) Working Group (OEWG) on Women, Peace and Security, led by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights, has been established. Numerous meetings have been held, involving relevant stakeholders, including CSOs, academia, NGOs, and other relevant institutional actors. A close collaboration between the above-mentioned Working Group, civil society and the most relevant actors, has been promoted in a multi-stakeholder fashion. Accordingly, this multi-stakeholder mechanism will oversee the implementation of the present National Plan, including by progress reporting to be conducted with relevant CSOs, in order to guarantee operational effectiveness and a more holistic and synergic approach.

The Plan remains in force for a period of three years and will be constantly monitored, including also at Parliament level, through periodic meetings. Italy has appointed a National Focal Point for Women, Peace and Security, who is a diplomat from the Directorate General for Political Affairs and Security of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

In particular the Italian Defence has contributed to the development and to the drafting of the third National Action Plan (2016-2019) on 1325, that includes the following commitments and related actions:

- continuing to promote the gender perspective in peace operations;
- supporting and ensuring the presence gender advisors in peace missions
- increasing the number of Gender Advisors/Gender Focal Points;
- continue to ensure specific trainings on the different cross-cutting aspects of UNSCR1325, in particular to personnel taking part in peace operations;
- increasing the representation and the participation of women in Police and Defence sectors, including at senior decision-making and leadership levels;
- further incorporate the “Women, Peace and Security” agenda as a key theme of engagement;
- supporting the engagement of male personnel in promoting gender equality and other initiatives on the principles of WPS;
- increasing the number of female military personnel and female staff deployment;
- increasing the number of Female Engagement Teams deployed.

### **Integrated women, peace and security commitments into key national and inter-ministerial policy, planning and monitoring frameworks**

The Third NAP on WPS is the result of an inclusive and participatory approach, focusing on the international and national dimensions of Agenda 1325. It has linkages with the National Strategic Plan on male violence against women 2017-2020, which defines the Italian overall strategy for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and replaces the previous special two-year national action plan against sexual and gender-based violence, adopted in July 2015.

### **Increased budgetary allocations for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda**

The Italian Parliament allocated 4 million Euro for the 2017-2019 period in support of the implementation of the third National Action Plan on WPS. Italy is thus one of the very few countries devoting public funding to the implementation of its National Action Plan.

### **Supported inclusive and gender-sensitive conflict analysis, early warning and prevention mechanisms**

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation - in collaboration with the EEAS, the French and German Foreign Ministries and a network of European and Italian think tanks - participates in a joint research project on state fragility and crisis prevention systems (Europe's External Action and the Dual Challenges of Limited Statehood and Contested Orders). The EU-LISTCO Project concerns the "European foreign policy towards fragile states" and aims to promote coordination in this field between think tanks and the policy planners, both at European and national level. Among the central issues of this project, relevance is given to an in-depth analysis of crisis prevention and management, also within the framework of the EU Global Strategy. In this framework, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is working on the elaboration of an Italian early warning system, which foresees the continuous monitoring of a set of macro-indicators of structural risks and/or instability and of warning signals of potential destabilizing situations and crises. Particular attention is devoted to the enlarged Mediterranean and Africa, due to our commitment to a stable, prosperous and secure neighbourhood and our focus on strengthening its institutional and, above all, socio-economic resilience. In light of the increasing recognition of the key role played by local realities and dynamics, institutional and societal resilience has further become central in this analysis. In such a context, an important attention is given for example to disadvantaged sectors, such as women and youth, or to aspects such as gender-based violence.

**27. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase the leadership, representation and participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding, humanitarian action and crisis response, at decision-making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts, and in fragile or crisis settings?**

- Promoted and supported women's meaningful participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements
- Promoted equal participation of women in humanitarian and crisis response activities at all levels, particularly at the decision-making level
- Integrated a gender perspective in the prevention and resolution of armed or other conflict
- Integrated a gender perspective in humanitarian action and crisis response
- Protected civil society spaces and women's human rights defenders
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

**Promoted and supported women's meaningful participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements**

The implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda was one of Italy's major priorities during our mandate on the Security Council and our Presidency of the G7, in 2017. Special attention was devoted to fostering women's participation in mediation, in line with the UN Secretary-General's priority of enhancing conflict prevention. Italy continues to promote the full and meaningful engagement of women in peace processes in all relevant fora (UN, EU, OSCE, NATO, G7) and at



national and international conferences and events, as appropriate. I.e., as G7 member, Italy supported the 2019 Dinar Declaration on women, peace and security.

Italian Defence firmly believes that the incorporation of gender analysis and gender perspectives in all aspects of military operations is a crucial aspect for all modern international and national scenarios. For this reason, gender issues are now integrated in all major national security strategy and policy directives, including in military directives and guidance documents, based on the international framework. Around 16.000 out of 280.000 of the military personnel are women, which means around 5.5% of the total number. Furthermore, there are no differences in recruitment criteria for male and female and no preclusions or limitations. The only differences are related to the biological differences between men and women and for this reason, there are different parameters in the physical selections. The enlisting procedures are the same at any level (military academy and colleges, etc.) and for all different roles/corps and specialties and there are not limitations applying on careers and employment with regard to international operations. About the participation of women in peacekeeping operations and humanitarian missions, it must be stressed that deployment is not planned on the basis of gender. Italian female soldiers have positively impacted peacekeeping operations, especially in building more confidence and trust among local women and children. Moreover, in Afghanistan and Lebanon some gender specificities have been developed as force multipliers: the Female Engagement Teams (FET), battle field enablers who listen, inform and interact with the local population, primarily women, to build enduring trust, confidence and increased support towards Host Nation Government and Multinational Force.

In October 2017, in the framework of the Italian mandate on the Security Council and the Third NAP on WPS, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network (MWMN). The Network aims at increasing the number of women involved in peace efforts during the entire conflict cycle, and facilitating their appointment as mediators, Special Envoys, etc., at a local and at an international level. The focus is on women from the countries of the Mediterranean region. Special efforts are devoted to capacity building and training, which are essential to enhance the capacities and skills of the women involved in the MWMN. We have recently organized two training courses in Rome for our mediators. We are in the process of consolidating the Network locally. We have recently established the first local antenna of the Network in Cyprus. The Network's members are also offered concrete opportunities to participate and/or intervene to events and conferences at regional and international level. I.e., a Libyan member of the Network provided assistance to the women part of the Libyan delegations that attended the Palermo Conference for and with Libya. The MWMN's Project is promoted and supervised by the Central Directorate for the United Nations and Human Rights of the MFA's Department of Political and Security Affairs. Together with the existing regional networks of women mediators, the MWMN co-organized meetings in New York aimed at enhancing the role and visibility of women mediators and gender-experts and at sharing experiences and lessons learned. The MWMN is part of the Core Group for the launch of the Global Alliance of the Regional Women Mediators Networks.

In 2018, Italy provided a financial contribution to an UNDP-Libya's project titled "Supporting local reconciliation and mediation initiatives in Libya 2018/2019", aimed, inter alia, at creating women networks of trained local peacemakers.

### **Integrated a gender perspective in the prevention and resolution of armed or other conflict**

During our mandate on the UN Security Council, in 2017, we promoted the inclusion of specific provisions on gender and gender perspective in Security Council's resolutions and other relevant documents. Within the EU context, upon Italy's request, provisions on the rights and protection of women and on the meaningful participation of women in the whole conflict cycle were included in

Declarations adopted after Summit or Ministerial meetings, in policy papers, in joint statements, joint letters to the UN Secretary-General.

Italy developed **training modules** on gender issues for Italian military personnel and international Armed Forces trained in the framework of bilateral and multilateral programmes. Curricula of the Education&Training Institutes for the Armed Forces, Carabinieri (Gendarmerie), and Guardia di Finanza (Custom Police) include gender issues. There are also specific training modules, i.e. the gender advisor course, the Female Engagement team course, the engagement in gender perspective course.

The Ministry of Defence has a Gender Advisor, a Joint Council on gender perspectives, and an Equal opportunities and gender perspective Unit. In order to increase operational effectiveness, Italian Defence put in place a number of actions aimed to mainstream the gender perspective culture among Armed Forces.

In 2012, an organization called “Equal Opportunities and Gender Perspective” has been set up within the 1st Division of the Defence General Staff, and it is composed by both male and female personnel. It was created to provide guidelines on gender issues for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Carabinieri Corps. Since 2013 a focal point Unit has been established within each armed forces.

A “Joint council on gender perspectives” has been established by law to advise the CHOD on the adoption of the best initiatives to spread gender perspectives, to implement UNSCR1325 and related. The Council is composed of 7 members: 3 men and 3 women, in order to guarantee the gender balance and a Chair person who can be man or woman.

The Joint council on gender perspectives is the National Focal Point for NATO-related activities and for other national and international organizations and stakeholders dealing with these specific topics. This body aims to the improvement of the organizational structure of the military sector and acts in particular in the following ways:

- assisting the CHOD in the planning, coordination and evaluation of the integration of both sex in the Armed Forces and in the Carabinieri Corps;
- advising on how to provide assistance to the families of military personnel, primarily those engaged in international missions, and on the adoption of gender perspective, according to UNSC1325 and related;
- assisting in the preparation and monitoring the effectiveness of guidelines on gender issues, on the integration of personnel, on equal opportunities, on eradicating discrimination, on ensuring the well-being of staff members, on the protection of family and parenting;
- providing advice on communication-related activities of the Ministry of Defence, aimed at spreading the culture of gender equality and integration among the Armed Forces and the Carabinieri Corps.

In order to foresee the right work-life balance in the military, legal social support is given through pregnancy and parental leaves, breast – feeding breaks, breaks to assist ill children, exception from the assignment to specific duties and deployments, the possibility to apply for temporary deployment in the area where the child lives. There are also some specific kind of leaves or breaks Italian military personnel can access (i.e. to graduate, political mandate, marriage, exemption from night duty for those assisting disabled persons, etc.). Extra support and facilitation are provided for single and divorced parents, widows/widowers looking after children.

In 2012, Italian Defence released the guidelines on Gender Perspective and Equal Opportunities. The guidelines, constantly updated in accordance with the current national and international framework, examine the following topics:

- the legal framework on family and parental care and equal opportunities within the Armed Forces;

- education and training on gender Perspective and guidelines for GENAD's role, the creation of a formal permanent position within the Defence organization;
- fair treatment and interpersonal relationships.

After the adoption of USNCR 2272 (2016), Italian Defence, following the suggestion of the Office of the Special Coordinator on improving UN Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), adopted a set of regulations addressing these crimes. In particular a National Investigation Officer (NIO) has been appointed in order to investigate and eventually prosecute the perpetrators.

**Gender awareness training** is given into the basic and advanced military training at all levels and ranks and is delivered both by male and female personnel. Different initiatives, such as short courses and seminars, are put in place in order to prompt all personnel to respect the core values of equal opportunities and gender equality, as fundamental part of interpersonal relationships based on respect for differences.

Advanced gender awareness training is included into training for leadership. In particular the Italian Defence Higher Studies Institute, which trains senior officers (OF5 – OF6) for higher appointments, and the Joint Services Staff College include in their programs lessons on gender perspective and “Women, Peace and Security” agenda.

Before and during deployment, specific training is delivered to all military personnel. Programs offer an explanation of the key aspects of Gender Perspective Milestones (namely UNSCR 1325 and NATO Bi-SC 40-1, but also touches on National Publications as well), understanding key terms and definitions (e.g.: What is Gender, Gender Perspective, Gender Mainstreaming etc., etc. ..) and how Gender is structured within international organizations (i.e. UN, NATO, EU, etc.). Particular emphasis is placed on the relevance of the subject in operations by explaining how gender perspective contributes to enhance efficiency and military effectiveness and how it must be applied both within the Force and outside in the field.

Furthermore, Italian Officers and NCO's attend the Italian Gender Advisor Course and Gender Focal Point Course and the NCGM and ESDC courses.

In June 2014, the first Gender Advisor course has been put in place in order to enable Italian Officers to become Commanders' advisor on gender equality within the Italian Armed Forces and on gender perspective implementation in operations.

Moreover, Italian Gender Advisors receive a specific training during pre – deployment exercises/activities: they take part, for example, to Command Post Exercises, actively engaging the Staff and the Commander with gender related issues and filling planning documents such as the Gender Annex “RR”.

As lessons learned from operational activities and based on NATO doctrine, it has been decided that the Gender Advisor has to be established as a specialist who will be working in Units/Divisions/Schools both as Commanders' advisor for gender perspective in operation and as advisor for gender equality and equal opportunities to all military personnel.

Since February 2014, the above-mentioned Gender Advisors have been deployed in Afghanistan (Regional Command West – RC-W and Training Advisory and Assistance Command West in Herat - TAAC-W) and in Lebanon (Sector West).

In November 2017, the first Gender Focal Point course for NCOs has been put in place to enable Italian NCOs to act as GENAD's Focal Point.

Since 2014, Italian Armed Forces has sent Officers annually to attend the Gender Advisor course and the Seminars on Gender Perspectives for Commanding Officers and Flag Officers at the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations, the Swedish institute appointed as NATO's Department Head concerning gender. A number of Officers have also been sent to the “A Comprehensive Approach

to gender in military operations” Course provided by the European Security Defence College, held in Spain and in the Netherlands.

In the north of Italy there is the Multinational CIMIC Group, a specialized unit composed of Greece, Hungary, Portugal, Slovenia and Italy, incumbent and solely responsible for civil–military cooperation. It delivers a course that enables the above-mentioned Female Engagement Team (FET) specialized teams made up by female peacekeepers, to reach-out the population (particularly women and children) and act as role models in the local environment, inspiring women and girls who are the main victims of violence and abuse during wars and conflicts, in a male-dominated societies.

### **Integrated a gender perspective in humanitarian action and crisis response**

During the UN Defence Ministerial held in Vancouver in November 2017, the Chair of the Joint council on gender perspectives has been appointed as gender Champion for Italian Defence in the Military Gender Champion Network. This initiative for senior military leaders, has been launched during the ministerial meeting, with the aim to create a forum to share information, best practices, experience and discuss the challenges of implementing the commitments made under UNSCR 1325 and related. Italian Defence ensures its commitment to support the Department of Peacekeeping Operations project to reach 15 per cent of women in UN mission as Observers and Staff Officers, promoting the appointment of female military personnel.

Even if the Italian military personnel employment policy (and then the appointment of Observer/Staff Officers) is not based on gender “quota” but meets skills/knowledge requirements, Italian Defence has ensured the presence of uniformed women in peace operations since the very beginning and their involvement in civil-military coordination projects. This, has ensured that local activities were conceived and developed after consulting the local female population.

Furthermore, Italy is going to start a sociological research on Italian women facing military careers, in order to increase the number of women in armed forces and the number of women in peacekeeping missions.

### **Protected civil society spaces and women’s human rights defenders**

Italy wishes to report to the following initiative:

**Title:** “Multilateral contribution to UNWOMEN for interventions to prevent gender-based violence and promote the status of women in Jordan”

**Beneficiary Country:** Jordan

**Date of approval:** October 2017

**Duration of the project:** 1 year (extended until December 2019)

**Total budget:** 1 million euro (grant)

**Implementing Parties:** UNWOMEN

**Project description:** The UNWOMEN initiative aims to support Syrian refugees and Jordanian women through livelihood opportunities, protection services and activities increasing community participation and leadership. The program intervenes in particular in the Za'tari refugee camp and in the host communities in the Governorate of Mafraq. It adopts a combined approach intended, on the one hand, to provide for the immediate needs of Syrian refugees through cash for work and protection activities, from the other hand to create an environment conducive to women's emancipation.

## **28. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to enhance judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the**

## human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or humanitarian action and crisis response?

- Implemented legal and policy reform to redress and prevent violations of the rights of women and girls
- Strengthened institutional capacities, including of the justice system and transitional justice mechanisms as applicable, during conflict and crisis response
- Strengthened capacity of security sector institutions on human rights and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse
- Increased access of conflict-affected, refugee or displaced women to violence prevention and protection services
- Taken measures to combat illicit arms trafficking
- Taken measures to combat the production, use of and trafficking in illicit drugs
- Taken measures to combat trafficking in women and children
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

Please refer to Question n. 13.

## 29. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child?

- Taken measures to combat negative social norms and practices and increased awareness of the needs and potential of girl children
- Strengthened girls' access to quality education, skills development and training
- Tackled disadvantages in health outcomes due to malnutrition, early childbearing (e.g. anemia) and exposure to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases
- Implemented policies and programmes to reduce and eradicate child, early and forced marriage
- Implemented policies and programmes to eliminate violence against girls, including physical and sexual violence and harmful practices
- Implemented policies and programmes to eradicate child labour and excessive levels of unpaid care and domestic work undertaken by girl children
- Promoted girls' awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

**Strengthened girls' access to quality education, skills development and training**

The abovementioned Memorandum of Understanding between the Department for Family Policies and the Ministry of Education, Research and University aims, *inter alia*, to guarantee to all boys and girls equal opportunities and rights to education, care, relationship and play, overcoming inequalities and territorial, economic, ethnic and cultural barriers; promote activities aimed at combating all forms of violence and bullying online and in schools, in order to remove all forms of intolerance, violence and prejudice, with particular attention to persons with disabilities; promote initiatives to raise awareness on the phenomenon of abuse and sexual exploitation of children, harassment, sexual bullying and cyberbullying.

### **Implemented policies and programmes to reduce and eradicate child, early and forced marriage**

Please refer to Question n. 14.

On 28 July 2015 the Chamber of Deputies approved a motion on forced and early marriages, which imposes on the government to “observe the United Nations resolution regarding forced and early marriage for children”, to “support the worldwide campaign to prevent and eliminate this practice which violates human rights, in particular those of children and adolescent girls”, to “Fund international cooperation programmes and projects for the prevention and ending of early and forced marriages”. In Italian state legislation, there are no explicit references to “forced marriage”, either in civil or in criminal law.

However, our system - in addition to limiting the effects of a promise of marriage to guarantee the freedom of consent - when requesting the contribution of specific requisites in order to marry, only allows minors to marry if already sixteen years of age and in the event of serious reasons. Foreign citizens who wish to marry in Italy are subject to “dual checks” on their ability to marry (international private law and civil law).

Marriages with minors are prohibited according to Art. 84 of the Civil Code, with the exception of children aged 16 and under authorization of the competent court. Two references to forced marriages are included in the ratification of the Istanbul Convention (Act No. 77 of 27 June 2013, Arts. 32, 37 and 59) and in Ministerial Decree of 2007 — “Carta dei valori della cittadinanza e dell’integrazione”. The offence is punishable also as private violence (Art. 610 of the Criminal Code), intimidation (Art. 612 of the Criminal Code), ill-treatment (Art. 572 of the Criminal Code), slavery (Art. 600 of the Criminal Code), sexual violence and sexual acts with minors (Art. 609 bis — 609 quater of the Criminal Code).

There is no systematic detection of cases, therefore there is no quantification of the phenomenon, however a comprehensive monitoring on the phenomenon has been carried out by Le Onde Association, financed by the Department for Equal Opportunities; the same Department has promoted in 2013 a Survey to estimate the number of women and girl victims in Italy of forced marriages, detailed also through contacts with Anti-violence Centers.

### **Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation**

**Critical areas of concern:**

- I. Human rights of women
- K. Women and the environment
- L. The girl child

**30. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies?**

- Supported women's participation and leadership in environmental and natural resource management and governance
- Strengthened evidence and/or raised awareness about gender-specific environmental and health hazards (e.g. consumer products, technologies, industrial pollution)
- Increased women's access to and control over land, water, energy, and other natural resources
- X Promoted the education of women and girls in science, engineering, technology and other disciplines relating to the natural environment
- Enhanced women's access to sustainable time- and labour-saving infrastructure (e.g. access to clean water and energy) and climate-smart agricultural technology
- Taken measures to protect and preserve the knowledge and practices of women in indigenous and local communities related to traditional medicines, biodiversity and conservation techniques
- Taken steps to ensure that women benefit equally from decent jobs in the green economy
- Monitored and evaluated the impact of environmental policies and sustainable infrastructure projects on women and girls
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

Please refer to Question n. 12.

**31. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation?**

- Supported women's participation and leadership, including those affected by disasters, in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation policies, programmes and projects
- Strengthened the evidence base and raised awareness about the disproportionate vulnerability of women and girls to the impact of environmental degradation and disasters
- Promoted access of women in situations of disaster to services such as relief payments, disaster insurance and compensation
- Introduced or strengthened and implemented gender-responsive laws and policies related to disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation (e.g. disaster laws addressing vulnerability of women in disaster)

## Section Three: National institutions and processes

### **32. What is your country's current national machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women? Please name it and describe its location within Government.**

The Department for Equal Opportunities (DEO) at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers is responsible since 1997 for guidance, proposal and coordination of regulatory and administrative initiatives to support women's human rights; prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination, combat VAW, exploitation and THB, as well as all violations of the fundamental rights to the integrity of the person and health of women and girls.

In particular DEO is in charge for the promotion and the coordination of the legislative actions concerning the elaboration and implementation of gender policies, the acquisition and analysis of data and information about gender equality and equal opportunities, the proposal, definition, implementation and coordination jointly with other central Administrations and local authorities of interventions in the field of gender equality, the dialogue and cooperation with EU and international systems and mechanisms on gender issues – i.e. United Nations, Council of Europe.

The Department is divided into the following offices of general management level:

- Office for General and International Affairs and Social Interventions;
- Office for interventions in the field of equality and equal opportunities;
- Office for Promotion of Equal Treatment and Removal of Discrimination on the grounds of Racial and Ethnic Origin (UNAR).

### **33. Is the head of the national machinery a member of the institutional process for SDG implementation (e.g. inter-ministerial coordinating office, commission or committees)?**

YES/NO

There is no national process for SDG implementation

*If YES, please provide further information*

Within the framework of the 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.

### **34. Are there formal mechanisms in place for different stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?**

YES/NO

**If YES,**

- a) Which of the following stakeholders participate formally in national coordination mechanisms established to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing**



## Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

### Beijing Declaration and PfA

- Civil society organizations
- Women's rights organizations
- Academia and think tanks
- Faith-based organizations
- Parliaments/parliamentary committees
- Private sector
- United Nations system
- Other actors, please specify.....

### 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Civil society organizations
- Women's rights organizations
- Academia and think tanks
- Faith-based organizations
- Parliaments/parliamentary committees
- Private sector
- United Nations system
- Other actors, please specify.....

### b) Do you have mechanisms in place to ensure that women and girls from marginalized groups can participate and that their concerns are reflected in these processes?

YES/NO

*Please provide further details about the mechanisms used. (2 pages max.)*

Concerning the participation of women and girls belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups, a specific attention has been focused on women empowerment and Roma participation to decision making processes. Roma communities are among the most marginalized ethnic groups in Italy, and Roma women face a total lack of involvement in decision making processes for their social and economic inclusion. With the implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion, 2012– 2020, carried out by UNAR, several interventions are aimed at increasing Roma active participation to opportunities and decision crucial for their socio-economic integration. From 2017 a participatory governance system was relaunched with the establishment of the so called National Platform on Roma and Sinti Communities (RSC), an operational tool for dialogue between the Government, RSC, associations and the central public administrations. The Platform was established following an expression of interest with the admission of 79 associations from all over the national territory and finalized through activation of the RSC Community Forum composed of 25 associations. A specific attention was focused on women and girls participation to the National Platform. In 2017, three plenary meetings were held (April, June, September 2017), while a specifically dedicated meeting to the theme of memory and genocide of RSC people was organized on 21 December 2017. In addition, from 12 to 15 November 2017, a specific training on anti-Gypsyism and on-line hate speech was promoted in cooperation with the Council of Europe. Last but not the least, in February 2017, the Italian government presented the ISTAT/ANCI/UNAR Research Report titled "Designing a pilot information system for monitoring the social inclusion of the Roma, Sinti and Camminanti populations" at ISTAT premises, which anticipated the establishment and convocation of the Informational and Statistical Working Group envisaged by the National Strategy, with the involvement of the State Administrations, ISTAT and representatives of the RSC communities and representatives of Roma women. Constant contacts between NCP, Platform and Forum associations have been maintained for the planning of bilateral meetings and the discussion of priority issues, to be deepen within the National Tables and Working Groups.

In the framework of the aforementioned Platform, in 2018 specific attention has been paid on the promotion of national and international events devoted on the Nazi-Fascist massacre of RSC (the so called porrajmos), with the support of FormezPA as body in charge for the organization of national and local initiatives in 2019. Another issue under attention is the level of education of RSC women living in large Municipalities (i.e. Rome and Naples) as the main beneficiaries of the JUSTROM EU and CoE-funded project, managed by UNAR since 2017. The JUSTROM Project is aimed to support the empowerment of Roma women through increasing their awareness about discrimination, complaint mechanisms, the justice system and human rights institutions/equality bodies. It is focused on multiple discrimination, gender equality and Roma women' access to justice. Furthermore the TO.BE.ROMA - "Towards a Better cooperation and dialogue between stakeholders inside the National Roma Platform" Project financed by the EU Commission has been implemented to reinforce the role and action of the national contact points of the Strategy to be actively involved in decision-making processes at the national and local level and to improve the dialogue, cooperation and coordination among the RSC communities and concerned stakeholders within the Platform and the Forum. To have an updated and comprehensive overview on the RSC communities and their women perspectives and needs, UNAR has also extended its collaboration with ISTAT for 2018-2019 to focus on the mobilization from camps to other kinds of accommodation and housing. Finally, in 2018 the PAL (Local Action Plans) Project has been launched to promote pilot actions for the establishment of local working groups and networks of interested stakeholders and RSC communities' representatives, taking into account a gender perspective, to facilitate the coordination and implementation of policies, the participation of RSC communities to the social, political and economic life, particularly in large Municipalities (Rome, Cagliari, Milan, Genoa, Naples, Bari, Messina and Catania).

**c) Please describe how stakeholders have contributed to the preparation of the present national report.**

**35. Is gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls included as a key priority in the national plan/strategy for SDG implementation?**

Yes

No

There is no national plan/strategy for SDG implementation

*Please explain.*

Please refer to Question n. 23.

**36. What are the top three areas in which your country has made most progress over the past five years when it comes to gender statistics at the national level?**

- Promulgated laws, regulations, or statistical programme/strategy setting out the development of gender statistics
- Established an inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender statistics (e.g., technical working group, inter-agency committee)
- Used more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects
- X Re-processed existing data (e.g., censuses and surveys) to produce more disaggregated and/or new gender statistics
- X Conducted new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)
- Improved administrative-based or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps
- X Produced knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers)
- Developed a centralized web-based database and/or dashboard on gender statistics
- Engaged in capacity building to strengthen the use of gender statistics (e.g., trainings, statistical appreciation seminars)
- Other

*Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)*

**Re-processed existing data (e.g., censuses and surveys) to produce more disaggregated and/or new gender statistics**

Reprocessing data to produce more gender statistics has been carried out mainly from the perspective of gender budgeting. Statistical information has been reworked so that it can be useful for the implementation of gender budgeting in Italy as required by law. The work has been merged into an in-depth context analysis report. The work is ongoing also thanks to the establishment of a scientific commission that has the task to coordinate the preparation of gender budgeting every year. Also as far as time use analysis, statistics have been read in depth from a gender and time perspective to attest how much the decrease in the index of asymmetry of roles in family work and greater male involvement is the result of structural changes and of cultural changes in the male environment: this information is very useful for policy purposes. Another interesting result concerns the analysis of the determinants of the higher involvement of men in family work. In this context the degree of the woman – and not of the man - emerges as a significant variable, probably as a proxy for greater bargaining power on the part of the woman, while the male and female work is a proxy for the rigidity of the working hours, which imposes to the man, due to scarce economic resources, to be more willing to share. The inclusion in the time use survey of questions on the satisfaction of the different moments of the day in the diary has allowed us to assess the degree of satisfaction of men during the time spent caring for children,

finding good results. Further elaboration has been carried out in the analysis of life expectancy by gender and education, which has let identify how social and territorial differences are integrated with those of gender. The elaboration of these new indicators was made possible by the integration of administrative data, surveys and census.

**Conducted new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)**

In recent years some surveys have been carried out, not necessarily new in their contents but with new modules for in-depth analysis on specialized topics that have allowed to deepen many relevant issues in a gender perspective. The first is the survey on gender-based violence against women, which has been significantly enriched since 2006 by the opportunity of producing estimates on different communities of migrants as well as the Italian ones and the persons with disabilities. In addition the section on rape and attempted rape has been expanded, gathering information on all the episodes suffered. Within the survey on safety of citizens, it was also estimated for the first time the number of men and of women who have suffered different kinds of sexual harassment. It emerged that 8 million 816 thousand women have suffered sexual harassment in their lifetime, 43.6% of the total number of women aged 14 to 65 and 3 million 778 thousand men, 18.7% of the total. 97% of the perpetrators of harassment against women were men, and the perpetrators of harassment against men are mostly men, 85.4%. Particular attention has been paid to sexual blackmail at work against women, which is highlighted as the most submerged form of violence with 0.7% of reports, with an extreme loneliness of women since only 20% have talked about it with someone. These enriched data on gender-based violence against women have been fed into the Information System on violence against women where they are reported together with those of the toll-free number 1522 for women's aid, of anti-violence centres and shelters, of programmes for offenders, of reports to police forces, of proceedings under prosecution, convictions, prisoners, awareness campaigns and institutional activities. The survey on Family and social actors has proposed a gender analysis of intra-generational and intergenerational social mobility and territorial mobility during life for work reasons. In addition, the intentions of fertility have been analysed by highlighting how the desired number of children by women and men is 2 compared to a real number of 1.3. The low fertility rate in Italy seems to be more related to factual obstacles than to a lack of desire for motherhood and fatherhood.

**Produced knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers)**

A first research has been produced by ISTAT titled "How women's lives change": it analyses the situation of women in all spheres of their lives and the transformations over the last 10 years particularly affected by a deep economic and social crisis, which has impacted less on women than men as for employment levels because they are more integrated into services, but that has worsened the quality of work in terms of involuntary part time, precariousness, reconciliation of life times. The gender gap in employment levels has decreased by 5 points: it is due to a male decrease and not a women advancement. The context has been also examined from a poverty point of view where single mothers and single elderly women emerge as the most at risk of poverty. Particularly relevant are the analyses on the reconciliation of life times and on gender stereotypes that highlight a structural gender discrimination based on cultural problems.

A second research was produced by ISTAT on the reproductive health of women with the aim of integrating all the available statistics on this matter: pregnancy, childbirth, spontaneous and voluntary abortion and contraception. Heightened pregnancy and childbirth medicalisation emerges, with a much higher number of tests in pregnancy than is necessary and recommended by WHO and a childbirth medicalisation with a very high level of caesarean births. Voluntary abortion continues to decline and has reached low levels: the fundamental problem in this case concerns foreign women who are subject to higher risk.

In-depth thematic studies have also been carried out on single mothers (900,000 in Italy) experiencing high levels of absolute poverty.

**37. Out of the following which are your country's top three priorities for strengthening national gender statistics over the next five years?**

X Design of laws, regulations, or statistical programme/strategy promoting the development of gender statistics

- Establishment of an inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender statistics (e.g., technical working group, inter-agency committee)
- Use more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects
- Re-processing of existing data (e.g., censuses and surveys) to produce more disaggregated and/or new gender statistics
- Conduct of new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)

X Greater utilization and/or improvement of administrative-based or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps

- Production of knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers)
- Development of a centralized web-based database and/or dashboard on gender statistics
- Institutionalization of users-producers' dialogues mechanisms
- Statistical capacity building of users to increase statistical appreciation on and use of gender statistics (e.g., trainings, statistical appreciation seminars)

X Other (Gender budgeting)

*Please provide a brief explanation and examples of your plans (2 pages max.).*

**Design of laws, regulations, or statistical programme/strategy promoting the development of gender statistics**

The aim is to pass a law that guarantees the production of gender-sensitive official and regular statistics on gender-perspective strategic issues that are released periodically to ensure that gender issues have equal dignity with economic statistics. The latter are largely provided for in European regulations. Italy already provides for a legal obligation for the time use survey every five years. It is planned to extend this approach to all relevant issues.

**Greater utilization and/or improvement of administrative-based or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps**

The contribution of statistics produced by the Ministries of the Interior, Justice and Health will be relevant for the improvement of statistics on violence against women through the detection of the relationship between the offender and the victim within the current databases. Only in this way it will be possible to have an yearly framework of reported violence in relation to the offender.

The work of integration with administrative sources will also be carried out on other issues such as disability and the analysis of people who have benefited from the citizenship income measure against poverty by sex.

### **38. Have you defined a national set of indicators for monitoring progress on the SDGs?**

Yes

No

**If YES, how many indicators does it include and how many of those are gender-specific<sup>1</sup>?**

123 SDG indicators and 50 gender specific

**If YES, how many of the gender-specific indicators are additional country indicators (i.e., not part of the global SDG monitoring and indicator framework)?**

25

*Please provide the indicators in an annex*

**If NO, how many global gender-specific SDG indicators (list provided in Annex 1) are available in your country?**

*Please provide the indicators in an annex*

### **39. Has data collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and on gender-specific indicators under other SDGs begun?**

Yes

No

**If YES, please describe which indicators have been prioritized**

Please refer to the Annex.

**If NO, explain the main challenges for collecting and compiling data on these indicators**

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<sup>1</sup> The term 'gender-specific indicators' is used to refer to indicators that explicitly call for disaggregation by sex and/or refer to gender equality as the underlying objective. For example, SDG indicator 5.c.1 captures the percentage of countries with systems to track public allocations that are directed towards policies and programmes that promote gender equality—the underlying objective is the promotion of gender equality. The term is also used for indicators where women and girls are specified within the indicator as the targeted population (see UN Women. 2018. *Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. New York).

**40. Which of the following disaggregations<sup>2</sup> is routinely provided by major surveys in your country?**

- X Geographic location
- X Income
- X sex
- X Age
- X Education
- X Marital status
- X Race/ethnicity
- X Migratory status
- X Disability
- Other characteristics relevant in national contexts

\* \* \*

**ANNEX**

Global indicator		Same, proxy, partial
1.1.1	Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)	
1.2.1	Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	1
1.2.2	Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	1
1.3.1	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	
1.4.2	Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure	
1.b.1	Proportion of government recurrent and capital spending to sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups	
2.3.2	Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	1
3.1.1	Maternal mortality ratio	

<sup>2</sup> As specified in A/RES/70/1, with the addition of education and marital status.

3.1.2	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	
3.3.1	Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations	1
3.7.1	Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	1
3.7.2	Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	1
3.8.1	Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)	1
4.2.2	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	1
4.3.1	Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex	1
4.5.1	Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated	1
4.6.1	Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex	
4.7.1	Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education and (d) student assessment	
4.a.1	Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)	
5.1.1	Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex	
5.2.1	Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	1



5.2.2	Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	1
5.3.1	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	
5.3.2	Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age	
5.4.1	Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	1
5.5.1	Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	1
5.5.2	Proportion of women in managerial positions	1
5.6.1	Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	
5.6.2	Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15-49 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education	
5.a.1	(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure	
5.a.2	Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control	
5.b.1	Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	1
5.c.1	Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment	
8.3.1	Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex	
8.5.1	Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities	1
8.5.2	Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	1
8.7.1	Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	
8.8.1	Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status	1
8.8.2	Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status	

8.9.2	Proportion of jobs in sustainable tourism industries out of total tourism jobs	
10.2.1	Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	1
11.2.1	Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	1
11.7.1	Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	
11.7.2	Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months	1
13.b.1	Number of least developed countries and small island developing States that are receiving specialized support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities	
16.1.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	1
16.1.2	Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause	
16.2.2	Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	
16.2.3	Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	1
16.7.1	Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups	1
16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group	
17.18.1	Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	
<b>52</b>		<b>25</b>

### **25 Indicators by gender added by ISTAT/Italy**

<b>Global indicator</b>
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1.4.1	Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services
2.2.2	Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height $>+2$ or $<-2$ standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)
3.2.1	Under-five mortality rate
3.2.2	Neonatal mortality rate
3.3.2	Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population
3.4.1	Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease
3.4.2	Suicide mortality rate
3.5.2	Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol
3.6.1	Death rate due to road traffic injuries
3.9.3	Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning
3.a.1	Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older
3.c.1	Health worker density and distribution
4.1.1	Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex
4.4.1	Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill
8.6.1	Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training
9.5.2	Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants
10.1.1	Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population
10.7.2	Number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people
11.1.1	Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing
16.1.3	Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months

16.1.4	Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live
16.3.1	Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms
16.3.2	Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population
16.6.2	Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services
17.8.1	Proportion of individuals using the Internet