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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ITALY AT THE 91st JOINT MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION AND THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 July 2024

Security Dialogue: “Women, peace and security: women’s contribution to peace and security – lessons learned and challenges ahead”

Madam Chairperson,

Italy aligns itself with the statement by the European Union and wishes to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

First of all, we should like to reiterate our appreciation to the Maltese Chairmanship of the Permanent Council and the Croatian Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation for organizing this Security Dialogue on women, peace and security, and to all the distinguished speakers for their interesting contributions.

The women, peace and security agenda is more relevant than ever, unfortunately not least because of the proliferation of bloody conflicts near us: first and foremost the conflict as a result of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine. Ukraine’s courageous response is an excellent example of how women play an integral and important part in countering today’s security threats.

Since the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, Italy has positioned itself among the countries in the vanguard of efforts to promote the fundamental values of the women, peace and security agenda. Among other things, our current National Plan of Action, a new version of which is being drafted for the period 2025 to 2030, provides for the full, equal and effective participation of women in negotiation processes and in all phases of armed conflict management and the promotion of the gender perspective in peace operations, and for the enhancement of the presence of women in the armed forces and police. This is in view of the fact that the application of a gender perspective, in addition to increasing the effectiveness in military interventions, constitutes an important legitimizing factor.

In the context of its G7 (Group of Seven) Presidency, too, Italy has worked to further advance the women, peace and security agenda at the global level. In particular, at the last Summit held in Apulia from 13 to 15 June, together with the other member countries of the Group, we reaffirmed our shared commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, to advancing the women, peace and security agenda, including its application to disaster risk prevention, and to eradicating all forms of

gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, also by supporting the role of women peacebuilders.

Another important aspect of our commitment is the protection of women and girls in conflict situations and the promotion and protection of their human rights. Italy also devotes particular attention at the OSCE to the protection of minors in armed conflicts. Through the Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict, of which Italy is a co-chair together with Albania, Belgium, Norway and Poland, we are actively working to keep the spotlight on the consequences of conflicts for children and to enhance the Organization's role in that area.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.