



ITALY 2017 - 2018
Candidate to the
United Nations Security Council

► **Our candidature.** Italy has presented its candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2017-2018 term. The elections will be held in June 2016. Since its accession in 1955, Italy has been a key member of the UN, contributing to the strengthening of multilateralism, one of the mainstays of our foreign policy. **Italy is the top Western contributor of blue helmets** and is among the top ten contributors to the UN's regular and peacekeeping budgets. We are deeply committed to the stabilization of crisis areas and to the protection and promotion of human rights and sustainable development. As **the only Mediterranean candidate** for the 2017-2018 term, we aim at contributing our added value by giving voice to the priorities of the environment and of developing countries.

► **Peace and International Security.** As stated by Prime Minister Renzi at the opening of the 70th UNGA, "Building tomorrow's peace" will be the key objective of Italy at the UNSC. As the first blue helmet contributor among Western countries, the **Italian peacekeeping model** is focused on an integrated civilian-military approach, which puts humanitarian concerns, the empowerment of local communities and the quest for a political solution and reconciliation at the forefront of international action.

While confirming our engagement in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Italy is also ready to further its contribution to UN peacekeeping efforts, including in the field of pre-deployment training, an area of established Italian expertise. Italy is in the core group of signatories of the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians.

Italy shares the belief in the urgency of reinforcing **the UN's role in prevention and mediation** and will continue to promote the swift deployment of mediation teams and "early warning" mechanisms to strengthen the UN's capacity to prevent and halt atrocity crimes.

Italy is at the geographic forefront of the emergence of **radicalization and violent extremism** and is fully engaged in the international effort to defeat Da'esh, including through its co-

leadership of the Counter-ISIL Finance Group. We are committed to the international effort to curtail the flow of foreign fighters and foster de-radicalization, including by engaging moderate religious leaders to shield our youth from extremism.

► **Sustainable Development.** Italy has consistently championed the holistic and transformational approach embraced by the 2030 Agenda. As Chair of the 69th UNGA's Second Committee, we have significantly contributed to the Agenda's shared vision combining the goals of economic, social and environmental development with that of building peaceful societies based on democratic institutions, the rule of law, and the respect of human rights.

Italy is proactively committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, starting with its progressive increase of funding for international cooperation and within the EU. Our engagement in highlighting the potential and valuable contribution of migrants and refugees to both the destination and departure countries, based on a **responsible and humanitarian approach**, offers an effective response model for this increasingly global and multi-faceted challenge. We will **strive to advance the general consensus** on a new operational model for maximizing the effectiveness of the role of the UN System for development.

► **Energy and the Environment.** Access to energy is a crucial factor for promoting sustainable development. **Renewable energy together with energy efficiency is at the core of Italy's energy policy.** Today one third of Italy's energy needs are met by renewables and we rank among the leading countries for investment in the solar industry in the small-scale deployment of renewables. Our experience in power grid infrastructures, renewables deployment, smart metering and storage systems is acknowledged. Italy supports the role of renewables in the developing world, e.g. of geothermal energy, with a view to fostering universal access to energy and mitigating climate change. We introduced a National Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change in 2015 and are among

*"ITALY WITH THE UN:
BUILDING PEACE FOR
TOMORROW"*



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the most convinced contributors to the success of the December COP21 conference in Paris.

But taking climate change seriously means more. As ecosystems change, so do the resources and livelihoods they contain and on which millions of people thrive. This in turn affects countries' social and security balance, turning local environmental challenges into **global security ones**. Italy is therefore ready to ensure that the Security Council's activities take climate change into careful consideration, including its security, social, political and economic effects.

► **Human Rights.** Italy's foreign policy is based on the protection and promotion of human rights, on the assumption that the respect of fundamental rights and freedoms for all individuals, particularly those living in poverty or otherwise excluded, is a key precondition for long-lasting peace, security and sustainable development.

Our priorities include the safeguarding of women's and children's rights, the promotion of freedom of religion or belief, the campaign for a universal moratorium on the death penalty. Our open and inclusive approach, **respectful of cultural differences and sensibilities**, has contributed to the human rights agenda in multilateral fora, providing strong cross-regional support to various initiatives. Italy continues to be engaged with partner countries in upholding children's rights, protecting economic, social and cultural rights, while also recognizing the human rights dimension in areas such as education, health, access to food and water, and sustainable development.

► **Women Empowerment for Peace and Development.** Italy believes that the inclusion of **women as actors of change** can boost progress in security and development. We support the current review of the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda, and we are dedicated to **reinforcing women's role in all social and economic fields** in accordance with the newly adopted goals of the 2030 Agenda. Italy will continue to strive towards the elimination of all forms of violence, exploitation, trafficking and discrimination of women.

► **Protection of Cultural Heritage.** The destruction and looting of cultural and historical sites is increasingly pursued as instrumental to the eradication of cultural identities and the radicalization of entire regions. In support of the UNESCO "United4Heritage" campaign, Italy is promoting the creation of a readily mobilized task force, comprising experts from various fields to protect heritage sites both during and in the aftermath of peacekeeping operations. We believe that **safeguarding our world heritage can be a crucial component of the UN's peacekeeping and peacebuilding effort**.

► **At the forefront against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime.** Italy is a leading player in the global fight against terrorism, violent extremism and Transnational Organized Crime. We believe in an **integrated approach to counter-terrorism**, one in which there is synergy among investigation, intelligence gathering, political and diplomatic efforts and counter-financing.

We are a **founding member of the Global Counterterrorism Forum** and strongly support the UN Counter-terrorism Implementation Task Force and its mandate. We have been, from the first moment, the **main promoters of the General Assembly Resolution on Transnational Organized Crime**. We are also fully engaged on all initiatives to strengthen law enforcement and criminal justice systems.

Together, we can strengthen the role of the UN system in upholding the cornerstones of the international fight against terrorism: building states' capacity aimed at its prevention and ensuring that human rights and the rule of law are respected throughout the process.

► **Italy on the UNSC in 2017-2018: a vote for consensus.** Italy aims to **promote a "fit for purpose" UN System** better prepared to tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow. In this respect, we are ready to contribute to further improving the UN Security Council's working methods, allowing for more extensive consultations with Member States on a broader range of issues.

Italy is ready to act as a **bridge between the Council and Member States**, ensuring that their individual and collective concerns are given appropriate consideration on the international agenda.