

**INTERVENTO DEL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSIGLIO  
ALL'EVENTO DI ALTO LIVELLO  
“ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING”**

*(New York, 25 settembre 2018)*

Mr. Secretary-General, distinguished colleagues, Excellencies,

- I would like to thank the Secretary-General for convening such an important event and to commend him for his strong leadership in enhancing the capability of UN peacekeeping to be “fit for purpose”.
- In today’s fast evolving security scenarios, peacekeeping remains a very powerful instrument at our disposal to prevent, contain and resolve conflicts and still provides a crucial contribution to our collective and comprehensive efforts to restore and sustain peace.
- As first contributor of Blue Helmets in the Western Group and one of the most generous financial supporters to peacekeeping, Italy is well aware of the multiple challenges peace operations are facing today.
- We are also conscious of the need for a collective endeavor to address those challenges more effectively. Each of us has a role to play, and Italy stands ready to do its part and make UN peace operations more effective, efficient and better suited to respond to today’s threats and challenges.
- The pursuit of sustainable peace and the protection of civilians should guide our efforts, and always be our ultimate aims.
- I am very proud of the role that Italian peacekeepers play to the benefit of international stability and of their distinctive approach upholding the values of humanity and respect of local communities.
- Therefore, peacekeeping operations should have well defined and realistic mandates. They should also have a clear political strategy and all the necessary means to fully implement their tasks.
- Indeed, we must increase the number and role of women, as well as provide peacekeeping operations with our best troops, first-quality equipment and appropriate enablers.
- This is the way to enhance mandate’s delivery, the protection of civilians as well as the safety and security of our peacekeepers and

humanitarian actors. In this respect, we also support the crucial role that environmental impact management of UN peace missions needs to play.

- Female peacekeepers provide wider perspectives and can cross social and cultural boundaries, thus building trust with local populations, particularly with women and children who are often the main victims of violence in conflicts.
- Pre-deployment and in-mission training is also essential. It provides peacekeepers with up-to-date knowledge, high professional and ethical standards, and common operating procedures. Italy has a strong record in training military and police personnel for peace operations, and proudly offers a wide range of training modules.
- To make sure that peacekeepers do not fail the people they have to protect, we need to prevent and eradicate the scourge of sexual exploitation and abuse, that sadly affects even UN peacekeeping missions.
- I therefore encourage every country to join the Circle of Leadership created by the Secretary-General, and to take concrete measures to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and abuse, to hold perpetrators accountable and to support the victims.
- To conclude, I pay the most respectful tribute to all the men and women who are serving the values of the United Nations in the field and bring peace and security where it is most needed, and to those who have lost their lives doing so over the years.

Thank you.