

## The Italian Republic

### Positions for the Security Council

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#### **I. Addressing the Refugee Crisis**

The Italian Republic firmly stands by the actions of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for its leadership and coordination of international action for refugees. Drawing on previous resolutions such as A/RES/55/76 and A/RES/72/244, Italy acknowledges the tireless efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner and other active Member States to provide international protection and assistance to immigrants for the past fifty years. However, with recent political upheavals throughout the Middle East and continued instability in parts of Africa, the international immigration crisis has heightened drastically. Strongly emphasizing the sense of global community, the Italian Republic implores all Member States to take an active role in alleviating the immigration crisis through comprehensive international cooperation on immigration and human mobility.

Since the country's Mare Nostrum operation that saved about 150,000 lives in 2014, the Italian Republic continuously devoted to lead European coast rescue and refugee relief efforts. Approximately 630,000 people used the "Central Mediterranean route" to reach Italy between 2011 and 2016. Last year alone, the UN Migration Agency reported that 171,635 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea, with just under 70% arriving in Italy. Firmly believing in "building peace for tomorrow," the Italian Republic strongly affirms that all refugees and migrants must be protected and respected in parallel to universal human rights. Recalling S/RES/1208, Italy also has been working closely with the United Nations peace efforts to tackle the root causes of the refugee crisis, to minimize instability, insecurity, and poverty generating the disorderly flows of migrants and refugees from North Africa and the Middle East. Today, Italy is the top troop-contributing country to the United Nations peacekeeping operations. Specifically, Italy considers supporting Libya's stabilization, legitimate institutions and reconciliation as top priorities as the majority of immigrants entering Italy is from Libya.

The Italian Republic strongly asserts that refugee resettlement is a global responsibility, which must be shared fairly. Worldwide, more than 21 million people have been forced to seek sanctuary abroad. Italy encourages all Member States to acknowledge the seriousness of the refugee crisis that puts human rights, dignity and freedom at serious risk. In order to protect the livelihood of civilians fleeing from conflict zones and to prevent further instability, the Italian Republic calls for three actions to take place to alleviate the refugee crisis. First, prioritize saving lives by granting emergency status or visa to refugees allowing people fleeing persecution of wars to cross borders, opening up safe routes to sanctuary for refugees to secure protection. Second, enlarge and increase the number of safe havens and refugee camps in the neighboring countries of conflict zones to increase aid and manpower to African and European countries struggling with large influx of refugees. Italy suggests the use of both U.N. peacekeepers and military personnel in destination countries. Third, stop blaming refugees and migrants for economic and social problems, and instead combat xenophobia and racial discrimination to decrease tensions and fear of foreigners. Italy calls for an international forum to conduct research and share the results of various methods to counteract xenophobia. Finally, stop the very conflicts that generate forced relocation of vulnerable refugees. This can be done by increasing the number of peacekeepers and expanding peacekeeping missions in conflict areas and combating poverty through improved education, access to sustainable water and food sources and provision of medical resources. As Italy's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon Vincenzo Amendola, addressed at the Security Council briefing of

the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees, “we, as members of the Security Council, have the primary responsibility in maintaining international peace and security and we must thus meet the expectations of those millions of people counting on us to restore and build peace.” The Italian Republic reaffirms that the protection of refugees is a core human value and requires collective effort in the world.

## **II. Responding to Food Insecurity in Conflict Areas**

Food is one of the fundamental building blocks for all life, and as such food insecurity generates not only physical deterioration but also leads to further instability in conflict areas. Building on the legacy of Expo Milan 2015 “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life” and the Milan Charter, the Italian Republic urges all Member States to recognize the importance of food security and sustainable agriculture as the key preventative approach to escalation of conflict. The perpetual cycle of hunger and armed conflict calls upon the international community to immediately and effectively respond to the issue. As A/RES/72/238 and A/RES/71/245 recall, hundreds of millions of people, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa and in South and West Asia, are trapped in the cycle of continuing food insecurity and malnutrition. According to the Global Report on Food Crises 2017, the number of people facing crisis-level food insecurity or worse has increased dramatically, up from almost 80 million in 2015 to 108 million in 2016 in countries affected by, civil war, conflict, and environmental crisis including natural disasters, and excessive food price volatility. As expressed in A/RES/72/173 and A/RES/71/191, all humans have right to food, and all Member States should strive to uphold it.

The Italian Republic firmly stands by the actions of the United Nations agencies including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP). Headquartered in Rome, Italy, the FAO puts the goals of hunger elimination, food security, poverty reduction, and sustainable and inclusive agriculture as the utmost importance. As one of the largest voluntary contributors to FAO’s budget, Italy is zealously supporting a variety of activities to achieve the goals of FAO. Especially the Rome Declaration on Nutrition accompanies technical frameworks to prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide- particularly under-nutrition in children and anemia in women and children. Italy invites other Member States, relevant organizations, and private sector businesses to further extend financial support to these agencies committed to combat hunger.

Moving forward, the Italian Republic calls for the establishment of bilateral partnerships between countries experiencing severe food insecurity and food-secure countries to ensure proper delivery of food supplies, improved agricultural biodiversity, and sustainable farming training personalized by the country’s specific climate change and environmental struggles. However, Italy calls for a conditional resource transfer that the recipient country accepts both food and education encompassing agricultural training and farming techniques. The partnerships will also aim to restore the disrupted arable land in conflict areas such as South Sudan, and free the civilians who are coerced by militant groups offering a source of food in exchange for involvement in acts of violence through proper delivery of food supplies and rescue efforts.

Deeply alarmed by the rising levels of food insecurity and hunger, the Italian Republic urges Member States to take direct action promoting better channels of diffusion and transferring of know-how and advanced farming techniques instead of leaving humanitarian assistance regarding food security to the hands of the WFP and the FAO. Recalling A/RES/71/245 and A/RES/72/238, Italy believes that it is of the utmost importance that all Member States take a stand against the rising food insecurity in times of armed conflict and ensure that the fundamental need of all citizens are met. The Italian Republic will firmly stand alongside all Member States that are devoted to end the degrading cycle of hunger and armed conflict.