



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and International Cooperation



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

### **The National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 and the impact of armed conflicts on children**

Organized by the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict and the Institute of Political Studies "S. Pio V"

A project supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

*24 July 2023 - 9.00 am – 5.30 pm at the Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo*

The conference is organized within the framework of the project **"The National Action Plans on UNSCR1325 and the impact of armed conflicts on children: a study and analysis of the International Universities Network"**, carried out by the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict in collaboration with the Institute of Political Studies "S. Pio V" and supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The project aims to carry out **qualitative and quantitative research and produce an insightful report**, by geographical area, of the serious violations against children by armed conflict situations.

The research activity, in addition to being the basis of a **Final Report**, will be disseminated through the creation of a specific **Virtual Map** and a short **video** capable of communicating the results in a visually appealing way, with the aim of reaching a wider audience. A **photographic exhibition** will also be organized on the condition of children living in armed conflict and will be presented during the regional conferences.

Alongside the research activity we want to organize a series of conferences/webinars on the condition of children in armed conflicts with a focus on the comparison between the Italian Action Plan and the National Action Plan of the country where the conference will be held.

The project also intends to create an **Autumn School** on “Judicial and social aspects of violence against children, particularly girls, in armed conflict”, consisting of a three-week training course aimed at students in which the specific aspects of the research and focus will be dedicated to the importance of international criminal justice against serious crimes perpetrated against children in armed conflict.

## **The Conference**

Armed conflict subjects children to widespread systematic violations of their human rights with physical, mental, emotional and material repercussions.

Armed conflict causes severe direct and indirect consequences for children and most often the indirect consequences are not addressed due to the grave nature of the direct consequences, which are broadly defined as death, injury, recruited as child soldiers and violence against children. The dire consequences of the indirect harm caused to children during armed conflict have lasting impact on these children due to the double-barreled trauma such as gross violations of being abducted, forced removal from their families, illegal detention, and recruitment as child soldiers. In addition, these children are also deprived of their fundamental rights to education, shelter, and the right to build a fruitful and holistic life.

This conference provides the opportunity to build a comparative analysis between NAP's of selected Asian countries and the IV Italian Action Plan in accordance with Resolution 1325.

The objective of this conference is to create a narrative and collate ideas on how Resolution 1325 can impact and support the global movement to reduce the direct and indirect impacts of armed conflict on children. To achieve this, we must expand the understanding and impact of Resolution 1325 from its gender perspective to reach children affected by armed conflict as well and create a wider umbrella of sustainable peacebuilding via the 4 pillars of Resolution 1325 – Participation, Protection, Prevention,

Relief and Recovery, and Accountability.

The impact of armed conflict on children needs to deep dive into the following:

- *Participation* – how can we create a dialog from a gender perspective to mutually include the protection of children under Resolution 1325 and how should the National Action Plans reflect this?
- *Protection* – how does jurisdiction of the national and international communities work together to create a system of sustainable protection of children from armed conflict under the umbrella of Resolution 1325? (Considering that internal civil wars create a jurisdictional question for international community intervention)
- *Prevention* – what specific areas of direct and indirect impacts of armed conflict on children can Resolution 1325 address?
- *Relief and Recovery* – can Resolution 1325 play a larger role in the relief and recovery of children affected by armed conflict (as this is a critical impact point that tends to see a lot of children fall through the cracks)?
- *Accountability* – how do we improve accountability measures to support children and women affected by armed conflict?

During the conference, the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict will show a photo exhibition of two Italian photo reporters, Marzia Ferrone and Vittorio Alonzo, on children in armed conflict and post-conflict.

## **Conference Agenda**

**9:00–10:00 am**    *Welcome addresses*

Moderator: **Mrs. Simona Lanzellotto**, UNETCHAC

- **H.E. Geetha Kumarasinghe** - State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs Sri Lanka

- **H.E. Nicolò Tassoni Estense di Castelvecchio**, Italian Ambassador to Myanmar

- **Mr. Francesco Perale**, Deputy Head of Mission of the Italian Embassy to Sri Lanka

- **Mr. Mattia Ventura**, Deputy Head of Mission of the Italian Embassy to Bangladesh

**10:00 am-11:30 pm**    *Working Group Session*

*working groups on the NAP 1325: the participants will be divided into 4 groups*

I Group: Relief and Recovery, Accountability.

Moderator: Mrs. Laura Guercio

II Group: Protection of vulnerable groups; specifically, children.

Moderator: Mrs. Roshnee Rajasingam

III Group: Participation of young women in the decision-making processes. Moderator: Mrs. Shyamila Hettiarachchi

IV Group: Prevention. Moderator: Mrs. Simona Lanzellotto

**11:30-11.45 am**    *Coffee break*

**11.45 am -12.15 pm**    *Presentation of the outcomes of the Working Group participants*

**12.15-12.45 pm**    *Presentation of the Fourth Italian NAP on UNSCR 1325 and introduction to the project*

- **Mrs. Laura Guercio**, Secretary General UNETCHAC
- **Mrs. Shyamila Hettiarachchi**, RTL UNETCHAC

**12:45-2:00 pm**    *Lunch*

### **Panel Discussions**

#### **First Panel**

**2:00-3:30 pm**    *Protection of children during Armed Conflicts: a gender perspective. The UNSC Resolution 1325 and related ones*

Moderator: **Mrs. Roshnee Rajasingam**, RTL UNETCHAC

- **Mr. Fausto Pocar**, Professor Emeritus University of Milan, Judge at the ICJ, Previous Judge at the ICTY and ICTR, President of UNETCHAC

- **Mr. Cristiano Camponi**, Director of the Italian Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty
- **Mrs. Paolina Massidda**, Head of the Office of Victims of the ICC and member of the SC of the project
- **Mrs. Dato' Shyamala Alagendra**, International Criminal Lawyer and former Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions of Fiji
- **Mrs. Ramya Jirasinghe**, Kindernothilfe Sri Lanka
- **Mr. Jeevan Thiagaraja**, Former Governor of the Northern Province and Head of Consortium of Humanitarian Aid
- **Mrs. Pratima Narayan**, Deputy Director, Global Transitional Justice Initiative International Coalition of Sites of Conscience
- **Mrs. Bhumi Seneviratna**, Representative of AWAW – Sri Lanka
- **Mrs. Sherine Xavier**, Director of The Social Architects and Human Rights Practitioners – Sri Lanka

## **Second Panel**

**3:30-5:00 pm**    *The Italian IV NAP 1325 and a comparative analysis with National Action Plans in Asian countries*

Moderator: **Ms. Simona Lanzellotto**, UNETCHAC

- **Mr. Aristide Canepa**, University of Genoa, UNETCHAC (member of the SC of the project)
- **Mr. Ahmed Al Fatlawi**, University of Kufa, UNETCHAC (member of the SC of the project)
- **Mr. Paolo De Nardis**, President of the Institute of Political Studies “S. Pio V”, Vice President UNETCHAC
- **Mrs. Jan Marie Fritz**, University of Cincinnati, expert on gender issues and NAPS on UNSCR1325

- **Mrs. Marini De Livera**, Human Rights Lawyer and Founder of Sister's in Law, Sri Lanka
- **Mr. Monroe Jayasuriya**, Chief Executive Officer of Leads - Sri Lanka
- **Mrs. Shabnaaz Zahereen**, Officer in Charge of Child Protection - UNICEF Bangladesh

### **5:00-5:30 pm *Conclusions***

- **Mr. Fausto Pocar**, President UNETCHAC
- **Mrs. Laura Guercio**, Secretary General UNETCHAC
- **Mrs. Shyamila Hettiarachchi**, RTL UNETCHAC

### **5:30 – 6:30 pm *Cocktail***

"This conference was carried out with the support of the Directorate-General of Political Affairs and Security of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in accordance with the Decree n. D.D. n. 2111/101 of 27/03/2023. The views expressed in this report are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation".