ITALY

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Rome, May 1999

PART I – OVERVIEW OF TRENDS IN ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY[1]

1. The Scenario

1.1. Changes in the Political and Institutional Context[2]

The Italian political scenario has changed deeply in the years that followed the Beijing Conference. From 1992 onwards, Italy witnessed a long period of political instability, during which early elections were called twice. Finally, in May 1996, a center-left

ay Romano Prodi won a parliamentary majority and formed a [redacted] *coaliti*

1.2. Changes in the Social and Economic Con

o have occurred in Italy in the last

One of the most significant and widespread ch

ens is the transformation in the recently and dramatically

ne rest of Europe, today most Italian women believe that they live a better life

eir own mothers led before them. They consider the main factors in this

ement to be not only improved socio-economic and health care conditions, but

greater freedom and scope for independent choices which they enjoy in their

own personalities, in education and training.

e rate for males

In Italy, the female school attendance rate has increased mor

per cent of girls

and it is currently higher for all levels of education. Specifi

of boys, and 95.4 per cent of girls

attend secondary school against 79.9

per cent of boys. At the other end, the

the middle school examination agai

per cent for males

drop-out rate from university

males who pass the middle-school examination

cent for males. Out of one th

and 109 graduate from university. Instead, for

562 continue through secondar

one thousand girls who pass through the middle school,

female students, ou

ondary school, and 160 graduate from university

go on to graduate f

o apparent in informal learning processes. Girls read more

A similar female ea

cent against 45.5 per cent

They go more often to the

books than boys do

hey write more diaries, stories and

theatre (23.8 per cent against 15.9 per cen

sing, dance, go to museums, paint

poetry (51.1 per cent against 20.2 per cent

the boys in their

and make sculptures in a ratio that is consistently higher than

same age brackets.

While educational learning skills and the will to invest in their

l education are

highly

n young women, giving them a clear advantage over the males of their

same a

hould also be noted that this trend is seen in all age groups, and that it

to individual experience but also to the collective and organized

dimensions. In Italy, women are in

ers of society who are best able to reflect on

their past experience and to adapt t

ntinuously changing conditions. This is true

both regarding their self and live

their caring activities, their family lives, and

the one hand, and mass-media expectations and mass-media

and social aspirations appear to be very much a part

and the

invited to have a leading role in the "secondary world". There very

day for the development of new skills and leadership, as well as for job creation and

Contains the answer to the second to the last and, indirectly, also to the second question of Part I of the Questionnaire.

Except where expressly indicated, ISTAT is the source of all data contained in this Report.

social cohesion in a society which features both strong technological innovation and high social and environmental risks.

The impact of this positive potential on the access of women to paid employment is still highly contradictory. The changes in female subjectivity and assertiveness are evident in the increased participation rate in the labor market. Between 1993 and 1998, the number of women holding jobs rose from 7,135,000 to 7,364,000. However, so did the number of unemployed female workers (up from 1,236,000 to 1,491,000). The number of women in the total population is also on the rise.

assess the degree to which this trend may be related to the figures given above concerning the unbalanced distribution of caring responsibilities. It certainly is a fact

along with the lack of social services, may easily represent an obstacle to th

of a woman's desire for maternity.

The other area of deep inequality is that of the distribution of decision-m

positions. Despite the increase in the number of women holding gover

responsibilities, the number of women in Parliament is still unjustifiably low and

way representative of the social reality of women. In fact, only 11 per c

parliamentarians are women. And only 6.4 per cent of the mayors are women,

rovincial bodies are led by women. The situation is equally negative in the civil

ment roles ranges from 3.4 to 7.6 per cent

ns, where women managers total 14.7 per

nagers range between 3.1 and 4.8 per cent

ey are more strongly represented in small

nass media, 3.3 per cent of the editors of

7.4 per cent of the editors of weekly

count for 3.1 per cent of the Rectors, and

ciary, only 4.1 of women are Presidents of

with the fact that women have steadily

service, the percentage of women m

(with the sole exception of research

cent). In private-sector business, wo

in medium to large-sized enterprises,

businesses (10.5 to 12.5 per cent).

daily newspapers are women, ag

publications. In the universities, wo

11.1 per cent of full Professors. In

Court sections. This figure clashes

In such a complex framework, the challenge represented by the full-fledged implementation of the Beijing Platform in Italy today is more than just a question of numbers. It is related to the quality and meaning of the transition process which is [illegible] and indeed the [illegible] necessity, that on[illegible] founding elements should be the assumption of a gender perspective in all gove[illegible] policies. In this perspective, a major and unprecedented innovation was the appo[illegible] of a Minister for Equal Opportunities in the Prodi Cabinet, as requested by the N[illegible] Commission for Equal Opportunities after the Beijing Conference[illegible]

The approval of the Italian Plan of Action to implement the Beijing Platform [illegible] milestone in this new course. The Plan of Action took the form of a Prime [illegible] Directive, which was addressed in March 1997 to all members of government [illegible]

This choice of priorities was based on an understanding of the Italian society in which the objective of "guaranteeing freedom of choice and enhanced quality of life for women [illegible] and [illegible] means addressing issues such as the following:

[illegible] contradictions between employment and non-employment and between [illegible] contradictions between [illegible] of their complexity (different and changing [illegible] productive and reproductive roles [illegible] forms of women's work, a new [illegible] [illegible] women's sexuality and freedom, with both the promotion [illegible] women;

[illegible] relations, and of educational patterns to enable their dissemination;

[illegible] environment policies, that are compatible with the different needs of women [illegible] A different quality in international relations and [illegible] increasingly a multi-cultural context.

3. Mainstreaming, Empowerment, Affirmative Action: Evaluating Results and Obstacles

In an evaluation of the results and obstacles which have so far been encountered, it [illegible] impossible to consider the objectives aimed at mainstreaming in isolation from the [illegible] others. As mentioned above, both the Italian Plan of Action (the 1997 Directive) and [illegible] for Equal Opportunities strongly emphasize [illegible] the work carried out by the De[illegible]

outset that this approach entailed not only a potential partnership, but also a potential source of conflict between the two sexes. Indeed, it met with strong resistance on the

[illegible] Moreover, even the most open and gender-sensitive [illegible] part of actual po[illegible]

[illegible] markets have always considered women's policies as separate [illegible] politicians and de[illegible]

[illegible] states that have joined the EU rather as a perspective that cuts [illegible]

[illegible] governmental policies [illegible]

[illegible] and investment policies [illegible]

[illegible] the practice of social dialogue undertaken by the Italian [illegible] has become evident [illegible] its economic and social [illegible] Theoretically, dialogue [illegible] government in the a[illegible]

[illegible] represented an ideal arena for women, an arena in which [illegible] with civil society sho[illegible]

[illegible] under visibility and bargaining power. As women tend to be [illegible] they could have enjo[illegible]

[illegible] in civil society than in the institutions. [illegible] of women [illegible]

[illegible] of the occasions in which policies have been concerted e.g. the social [illegible] not see[illegible]

[illegible] the specific proposals submitted both by the National Commission and by [illegible] partne[illegible]

[illegible] for Equal Opportunities. These occasions ranged from the discussions [illegible] the De[illegible]

[illegible] on economic and employment policy, which led to the adoption of the Social Pact for [illegible]

[illegible] Development and Employment, to social dialo[illegible]

[illegible] factors were [illegible] The discussions on the use of the European Structural Funds [illegible]

In this complex situation, the challenge of mainstreaming has met with many difficulties and some significant results. Both are illustrated in the analysis of the twelve critical areas of concern. The most significant examples are listed below.

4.1 IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SPHERE

Italian employment policies are increasingly in line with European policy-making. The common initiative of European Ministers for Women has led to the introduction of substantial innovations in terms of mainstreaming and equal opportunities in the European Employment Guidelines. The most important result in Italy has been the fact that women's policies have escaped from the confinement of "specific policies" and some of the crucial issues for women have been fully integrated in the government's priorities. These issues are being taken forward with determination by the Minister for Social Solidarity and the Minister for Equal Opportunities. A number of important results have

xual violence on February 15, 1996. Initiatives to combat violence
re launched both by the Prodi and the D'Alema governments. The
raft legislation against domestic violence, recently adopted by one of
al and domestic violence were
harassment was approved by
le sexual abuse of children
nder of initiatives have been taken against what is, unfortunately, a
trafficking in women and children. The new law on immigration
pecial residence permit for reasons of social protection may be granted
ns of trafficking. It also finances programs for the social assistance and
f these women. The government has introduced a draft bill that aims at
enhancing the effectiveness of criminal enforcement and protection of vic

4.1 The initiatives for the promotion of women's entrepreneurship gave
to the funding of Law 215 specifically addressed to women in
sion was followed by a multi-media information campaign, and by
bservatory, the adoption of a toll-free number and also of other
e the access of women to the financing provided for under Law 215
he other measures that support small businesses, such as access to
l guidance, the streamlining of procedures for the start-up of new
ll as promotion and consultancy in the planning, start-up and
representation bodies.

new law ag
against wo
Cabinet an
the branches of Parliament. Many projects agai
introduced at local level, and a new law agains
Parliament, along with new legislation conce
Furthermor
growing s
envisages
to th
inte
After five ye
business. Th
the creation
measures t
but also to
credit, tra
businesses

4.2.2 The role of **women in institutions** has gained momentum and visibility in the debate on the pending election of the new President of the Republic, where it has been

[illegible] where it has been [illegible] debate on the pending election of the new President

[illegible]ovation on both the politica[illegible] clear that choosing a woman would represent a m[illegible]

[illegible]-balanced representation was [illegible] and symbolic levels. Furthermore, a provision on [illegible]

[illegible] provision encourages the [illegible] introduced in the draft law to reform the Constitution [illegible]

[illegible] electoral laws, aimed at promoting the [illegible] of affirmative ac[illegible]

[illegible] represented at 14 [illegible]

4.2.3 The government has adopted a draft bill (which is now being read by Parliament) [illegible]

[illegible] gender [illegible] into account [illegible]

[illegible]ation of the Beijing Platform, and give continuity and new impulse to the [illegible] fuller [illegible]

[illegible]en by ISTAT - the National Statistics Institute. These steps do not only [illegible] steps al[illegible]

[illegible] and on gender relations, in addition to the development of new gender-sensitive [illegible]

[illegible]tors.

[illegible] to **mainstreaming in development cooperation policies**, the joint work [illegible] **4.**

[illegible]he Foreign Ministry's Development Cooperation Department (DGDC), and the [illegible]

[illegible] Equal Opportunities has led to the training of "Guidelines to gender [illegible]

[illegible] in development cooperation" in these years' dialogue, solidarity and [illegible]

[illegible]lized cooperation experiences by government agencies, non-governmental [illegible]

PART II – FINANCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

2. The promotion of women in national budgets

There is no gender mainstreaming in the State budget. In other words, an awareness of the different needs of male and female citizens does not emerge from the definition of the budgetary items, as recommended by the Beijing Platform. A review of the resources

in favor of women
) and the Law on

existence of very few targeted measures. The major budgetary
are those set aside for the Law on women's entrepreneurship

affirmative action (25/91). However, in recent years there has been a positive trend in
the spending ratio of appropriated resources for these laws. The balance sheet data for
the 1995-1998 period showed that the spending capacity was very low up until 1996.
This resulted in a considerable loss of the available resources (25 billion lire were not
spent for the promotion of women's entrepreneurship owing to the lack of implementing
legislation, which was only approved in 1997, 30 billion lire for affirmative actions were
not spent between 1995 and 1996).

Starting from 1997, a reversal in trend has occurred. The appropriated funds have been
fully spent, and those set aside to finance Law 215/92 were in fact insufficient. The

acilitations provided for by Law 215/92 were therefore integrated with
1998 and 20 billion lire in 1999.

y items for the promotion of women that are contained in the National
e following:

finance the Equal Opportunities Department and the National

funding
10 billio
Smaller
budget i

- Fu

sion for equal opportunities, 20 billion lire per year, duly spent.

- An allocation for women and children who are the victims of trafficking in the
fund provided by Law 40/98 on immigration: 10 billion lire

special session of the United Nations General Assembly "Women 2000", was carried out under the responsibility of a "cross-competence" Committee coordinated by the [illegible]rtment and including gender experts and representatives of all relevant ministries [illegible] [illegible]hts of the Report [illegible] and departments. NGOs were consulted on t[illegible] [illegible] Regarding other International conferences: [illegible]

I. Dissemination of the Beijing results

In the two years following the Beijing Conference, many initiatives were organized at a local level such as meetings and debates, exhibitions, publications, videos etc. This action was supported by the networks that had developed during and following the

- The networks developed in 1988-89 between Italian, Palestinian and Israeli
role for women in the peace process [illegible] women, to promote a
Middle East;
- The network built before and during the war in the former Yugosla
women of different ethnic groups, to work for dialogue and reconciliation;
- Networks with Algerian women on issues related to human rights and
rights, in particular with support for the petition against the Family Code.

In the last two years, many conferences and meetings have been organize
strong participation of women from the Maghreb, Middle Eastern and Balkan
An important experience was the Conference "Mediterranean Women.
[illegible] Rights, which was held in Florence in February 1995
organized by the National Commission for Eq
award for a university thesis on the subject
instituted.

[illegible] and human rights
[illegible] opportunities. On that occasion, an [illegible]
Women and Human Rights was

III. Dialogue with institutions

The only permanent and cross-disciplinary for
[illegible] dialogue between the government
[illegible] all gender-related issues.
[illegible] Equal Opportunities. At the time of the Beijing
followed, this was also the only national coordination
[illegible] and disseminated the
that reported to the government. The Commission
Beijing Declaration and Platform in Italy
[illegible] to a consistent practice.
The appointment of an Equal Opportunities Minister in
[illegible] seen, in particular, in the
[illegible] women's organizations
[illegible] following activities:
- National Conferences (for instance, the "Zero Tolerance" Conference in Be
on violence against women[17]);
- Standing committees (for instance, the Committees on women's entrepren
and trafficking in women[18]);
- [illegible] operational coordination of institutional and NGO initiatives and NGO initiatives (for instan
[illegible] ation Forum on solidarity actions in Albania, the recent forum on humanitarian [illegible]
[illegible] the Kosovo emergency[19]).

[17] See chapter D, "Violence against Women".
[18] See chapter F, "Women and the Economy" and D, "Violence against Women".
[19] See chapter E, "Women and Armed Conflict".

e NGOs in development cooperation, and in addition, where a small number of women's
had been active in the past, one of the positive results of the Beijing
has been an enhanced awareness of the importance of a gender-oriented
all projects and programmes, as well as a greater number of initiatives for
ment of women. This "gendarization" of programmes and projects, which
ed following the publication of
and the promotion of a gender
has already been adopted by some NGOs, will be
the Guidelines for the enhancement of the role of

Kega
organ
Conf
appro

ITALY

PART III

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

As is true for the rest of Europe, old-age poverty (+65 years) in Italy is "feminized". This is due to personal circumstances such as the fact that women account for 72.8 per cent of the elderly persons living alone. Amongst the forms of extreme poverty, the number of homeless persons is on the rise, with a 3.3 per cent increase over last year (23.3 per cent of the homeless are young women).

Female immigrants account for over 40 per cent of the foreigners residing in Italy. For these immigrants, poverty is an endemic condition, although it is not generalized. The poverty of these women is due both to their exclusion from the regulated production cycle and to difficulties in access to stable lodgings and health-care services. It is often very difficult to safeguard the rights of these female workers, and to combat black market labor and enforce the industry collective la

ract, because these women do not have regular residence permits. It is also clear that many female workers hold un-registered jobs, ev

ugh they do possess a regular residence permit granted for reasons of work.

emphasized. While ind

Finally, the link between diseases and poverty should

• **Law 216/91**[3]**: contributions for vulnerable under-age children.** This law provides financing for public and private sector projects to local authorities in areas that are affected by high juvenile delinquency and school drop-out rates. The initiatives range from sheltered communities to measures to assist needy families, the provision of facilities for socialization in neighborhoods at risk, and the use of school facilities for extra-scholastic activities[4].

• **Law 104/92: assistance to families with severely disabled members.** [illegible] approximately 208 billion lire for the 1990-2000 3-year period for non-[illegible] services and also for the reimbursement of certain expenses incurred [illegible] severely disabled members[6].

• **Law 285/97 "Measures for the promotion of the rights and [illegible] children and adolescents".**[7] One of the main objectives of this law [illegible] childhood poverty, by adopting an innovative approach in which public [illegible] entities (associations, voluntary groups, Onlus) design the programs [illegible] funding amounted to 800 billion lire for the 1997-1999 3-year period [illegible] allocated mainly to the Southern regions) and 312 billion from the year 20[illegible]

• **Law 40/98 on immigration**, which facilitates the access of female imm[illegible] employment (this previously came under a reciprocity constraint [illegible] abolished).

• **The 1998 Budget Law** allocated 250 billion lire in the 1998-2000 p[illegible] projects to guarantee a **Basic Income** to families (almost always singl[illegible] units with a woman as breadwinner) in cities and [illegible] The pilot project, which is open to male and fe[illegible] their participation in vocational training courses [illegible]

• **The 1999 Budget Law** introduced [illegible]

a) Funds in favor of social cooperatives [illegible]

b) Family benefits (National Social Fund): 270 billion lire for the 199[illegible] Immigrant families, however [illegible]

[3] Retrieved by Legislative Decree 209/9[illegible]

[4] The [illegible] crime p[illegible]

[5] And s[illegible]

[6] The fu[illegible]

[7] See d[illegible]

[8] In the [illegible] Sassari, [illegible]

[illegible] funded by the Social Affairs Department and by the Interior Ministry, while the initiatives aimed at [illegible] are funded by the Justice Ministry.

[illegible] amendments.

[illegible] allocated by the Social Affairs Department [illegible]

[illegible] children".

[illegible]rno, Caserta, Naples, Isernia, Foggia, Bari, Matera, Cosenza, Reggio Calabria, Vibo Valentia, Enna, [illegible]

Maternity "checks" (National Social Fund) which are disbursed through the
s been allocated for 1999, 125 billion for 2000 and 150
women are also excluded from these measures.
ional Social Fund) totalling 430 billion lire in 1999, 445
n lire in 2001;
d) Increases in social pensi
billion lire in 2000 and 4
entives for small businesses and non profit organisations
Further extension of the
ered
methods currently in use do not consent an adequate analysis of
r, of extreme poverty, in an economically-advanced country such
1.2. Obstacles
The statistical s
poverty and, in
Indian living conditions of the Indian population have
king. This inevitably hinders the
been performed, a gender analysis of poverty is
t women. These actions are also
identification of effective strategies for actions
made more difficult by the rapid changes in domestic eco
increasingly heavy dependence on the globalized economy, a
dgetary constraints.

1.3. Commitment to Further Actions

The following measures are currently under examination by Parl
A government draft bill to facilitate the acquisition and rent
using for young
couples through subsidies and soft loans;
A draft bill on welfare relief reform, in line with the Eu
Union, which refers also
ution in families and in
to the new demands for well-being that are linked to
lifestyles.
s scheme to ensure that
The government's way of the overall
widow has no other source of income or
the pensions are not cut in the case
member
when the family unit has to care for a d
eveloped to assist single persons who are
On a local level, a relief policies have
e care, and enabling them to continue to
sick and require assistance, providing
live in their own homes

ping countries

2. Italian initiatives to alleviate poverty in

2.1. Actions taken

Since 1995, the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGDC) of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, which is responsible for cooperation policy, has included poverty eradication and women's empowerment amongst its priorities for official development assistance. Since the cooperation budget was heavily retrenched in the second half of the nineties, poverty control actions have focused on a small number of top-priority areas. These actions were based on mainstreaming - that is focusing on the role of women in broader programmes - and on women's empowerment.

- **Mainstreaming initiatives**

Building on the experience gained in 1996 in emergency situations, from 1997 onwards [illegible] women in "human [illegible] positive results have been obtained in promoting an active [illegible] development" programmes. These are programmes that have a strong social [illegible] They are said to be "integrated" in that they encompass economic promotion [illegible] social focus on the creation of micro-[illegible] for basic needs and stimulating [illegible] in the health-care sector [illegible] pation and democratization processes. Integrated programmes enable participation [illegible] [illegible] and so offer a more effective to respond to [illegible] [illegible] he in two [illegible] women. Specific gender mainstreaming actions were identified for th [illegible] da and a [illegible] human development programmes: a rehabilitation programme in [illegible] Africa. programme for the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises in [illegible]

s that are [illegible] **Empowerment programmes:** This category includes those i [illegible] targeted chiefly at women and that may be classified as poverty eradication programmes. [illegible] **Africa:** an institution-building programme for the Ministry for Community [illegible] Development and Women and Children's Affairs in Tanzania: the programme has a total [illegible] nths, and a budget of one billion lire; it is implemented by an [illegible] duration of eight [illegible] NGO [illegible] t the Gender Policy section of the Center for [illegible] A program worth half a billio [illegible] in Maputo, Mozambique, in their efforts [illegible] for African Studies of the Mediane U [illegible] s women's empowerment. The program has [illegible] en entrusted to an NGO. [illegible] O the project, with a budget of [illegible] billion lire, aimed at the promotion of [illegible] women's micro-businesses in Zimbabwe. [illegible] **Latin America and the Caribbean:** a 3-year project, funded through UNFPA, for [illegible]

In Eastern Europe: a programme for the promotion of working women and their economic and social rights in Albania, funded through UNFPA, for a total of two billion lire. Furthermore, 70 billion lire were allocated in 1999 to the National Fund for Albania, managed by the Social Fund and by the Social Affairs Department, to deliver aid to children and teenagers.

a programme in Palestine, funded through UNFPA, to create a ling service for women; the service will not only provide health on on legal rights and job placement.

ects promoted by NGOs in the following could also be listed: he poverty control programmes: Albania, Bosnia, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Palestine, Tunisia and Vietnam. These projects are variously aimed at promoting and they received a total financing of 10 billion lire from the DGDO.

ered been encountered are related chiefly to mainstreaming, that is to dology that considers women not only as beneficiaries but also as that [illegible] aspects in development programmes. Regarding empowerment, a negative women [illegible] especially in the case of NGOs, is simply to provide assis g in poverty.

Commitment to further actions

iew of the obstacles that have been encountered, the Directorate General for [illegible] the need to launch more broad-based initiatives [illegible] and the need to empower the victims of social marg s (from macro level [illegible] identification of the institutional base and the different econo micro) at which women are excluded from the economy. Two multilateral programmes [illegible] the United Nations agencies UNIFEM and UNFPA are currently in the financing [illegible] more mainstreaming and empowerment policies in the [illegible] stage. Their aim is DGDO; the programs amount to a total of 10 billion lire [illegible] initiatives undertaken for the year 1999/200

[illegible] for a gender perspective in development cooperation

[illegible] Seminar [illegible]

way in Mozambique, Cuba, Bosnia and Tunisia [illegible] projects that are alte

Context

As stated in Part I of this re

y is well advanced in terms of women's access to

curricula and in teaching methodologies

Contents of

teachers of the humanities, but few women teach scientific subjects, and virtually none teach technical subjects.

I. ACTIONS TAKEN

The Three Ministries Directive of March 1996, furthered the actions needed to introduce urgent changes in the educational system, mainstreaming the innovative content of women's culture in the reform of schools, universities and teaching, and promoting gender sensitive education.

To this end, joint efforts have been developed by the following institutions:

- Ministry of Education,
- Ministry for Universities and Scientific and Technological Research (MURST),
- Social Affairs Department,
- Equal Opportunities Department.

1. Ministry of Education

The Ministry set up a National Equal Opportunity Committee in 1989, building on the experience of Equal Opportunity Offices at the provincial and regional school authority levels. The Committee has formulated two 3-year plans for equal opportunities in education. The second plan (1997-2000) was based on the Beijing Platform, and adopted three action priorities:

Teaching methodology, with a national workshop on gender mainstreaming in educational approaches;

Sex education, with a national workshop[11] aimed at producing a Directive of the Education Minister to gender mainstreaming and sex education in the planning of teachers' activities, and in school curricula, with the support of universities, accredited [illegible] research institutions and local social and health-care se[illegible]

Citizenship education.

[illegible]on of teachers on gender [illegible] Another focus of the Education Ministry has been the [illegible]ation on these issues has [illegible] issues and equal opportunities. The need for continu[illegible] [illegible]lopment Courses, and has been taken on board by the National Plan for Teacher[illegible] [illegible]erever working groups on [illegible] been implemented in various ways throughout the coun[illegible]

[illegible]ch 2, [illegible] [11] In collaboration with the Equal Opportunities Ministry and the Research Dept. of the Education Mi[illegible] [illegible] 1998.

equal opportunities in the provincial school authorities exist and cooperate with the local Equal Opportunity Committees, there is a steady and significant presence of these issues in schools, arising from the teachers' common experience in education programming. This experience has opened schools to new cultural developments, and helped to review and update school curricula. It has also helped teachers to create an atmosphere of greater socialization, often by building relations with university researchers and women's studies departments.

Finally, as concerns the right to education of immigrant children, Law 40/98 on [illegible] immigration extended to all children the right to paid education on an equ[illegible] Italian children, and recognized the right of immigrant university students to apply [illegible] scholarships. To facilitate their learning of the Italian language and to help immigra[illegible] children in their schooling, a number of after-school initiatives have been launched. [illegible] managed directly by the foreign communities [illegible]

2. Equal Opportunities Department

[illegible] Opportunities Department are related to their [illegible] the most important initiatives of the [illegible] two following items:

- Text-books in schools;
- Relations with the universities.

2.1. School Text-books

[illegible] the formulation of a self-regulated Code [illegible] The Department has promoted a pro[illegible] for publishers of school text-books in concert with the Italian Association [illegible] and CISEM, and educational research institute. By tapping the wealth of [illegible] produced by women in these last twenty years, and with full respect for the [illegible] publishers, the Code has the aim of ensuring the fair representation of the two [illegible] text-books. Both men and women are to be shown as protagonists of the culture [illegible] science that form our contemporary world and that constitute the basis for [illegible]

[illegible] and approved by the European Union. It also is [illegible]

[illegible] government by the Civil Law Convention, which the Third [illegible]

[1] The project is sponsored in the Fourth European Programme [illegible]

[illegible] a response to the recommendation addressed to t[illegible]

[illegible] presented to the United Nations [illegible]

The overall goal is that gender awareness may help the new generations to plan their lives, new understanding and full lives free of old and new stereotypes, and to stimulate acceptance of other differences, be they ethnic, religious or cultural.

2.2. Relations with universities

The Equal Opportunities Department has engaged universities in the following ways:

- A steady relationship with the Conference of Rectors and the Rectors' Delegates[13] to the universities where graduate and post-graduate courses may be offered for specific competence in existing or new professions and to explore the possibility of
  - access to European funds for women's studies in Italian universities (courses, Support for the establishment of women's centres, master programmes, etc.)
  - Support for the establishment of women's centres, post-graduate programmes, etc.
- Observatory[14] to monitor the numbers and positions of women in
  - Creation of a national research institutions, their training and career paths,
  - University and s
- Provision for economic support (also through a recently-formed Committee
  - Provision for pol
  - at the Equal Opportunities Department) to the network of young scholars in women's
- and to the cycles of seminars and other initiatives that are organized by the
  - s
  - in a number of Italian universities.
  - n

3. Ministry for the Universities, Scientific and Technological Research (MURST).

- Following a proposal of the Equal Opportunities Minister, MURST set up a group of university teachers called "The cultures of differences and women's
  - The aim was to enhance the role of women's studies
  - studies in university insti
  - which applies, in particular, to the universities' new
  - the ongoing reform pr
- The group worked
  - autonomy and flexibility in defining curricula and educational
- of the MURST
  - recognition for the importance of "gender culture" in the final
- The following
  - Commission on teaching autonomy and women's proposals ap
  - items:
  - Criteria for curricular reviews
  - Proficiency Testing Systems and teaching m
  - Evaluation criteria

[13] For Equal Opportunities, T

[14] Recognition is under way and is being followed by the Italian counterparts of the European Athena Aude
the VG centers, of the women delegates of rectors, etc.

[15] To CNR (National Research Council), National Committee for Equal Opportunities, Equal Opportunities Department, etc.

tools, but also on how to acquire new forms of culture, respecting gender differences in learning modes, timing, and cognitive patterns.

Equal Opportunities Committee at the Education Ministry, entitled [illegible] proje
are. It proposes women's experience in caring as a relational mode [illegible] "Educat
me [illegible] listening and giving attention to oneself and to others, as well
which cuts across every [illegible] surrounding reality, in both the private and public sp
aspect of culture.
ses in Basic Education [illegible] Gender mainstreaming in the newly-established univers

1. At national level

The new National Health Plan adopted by the Health Ministry is strongly based on preventive medicine, and on measures to reduce the impact of major diseases (cancer, cardiovasculare diseases, diabetes, etc.). As to measures concerning women's health, they are specifically mentioned only in the special section of the Plan on "Mother and child" healthcare policies.

The National Health Plan for 1995-2000 also set out for the first time the principle that physical exercise plays a fundamental role in "the adoption of a healthy lifestyle". In Italy, physical exercise and sports is increasingly being taken up by women. The Decree [illegible] of the Italian National Olympic Committee [illegible] resentation of men [illegible] government has recently issued, deals with the issue of equita [illegible] endous policies [illegible] and women in the elective offices of the national sports federatio [illegible] activities [illegible] are being adopted to promote equal opportunities for girls [illegible] Other actions undertaken in the national health system incl [illegible] n of well-tested preventive and diagnostic measures in the pre and [illegible] The p [illegible] peri-natal [illegible] New provisions in the immigration law to guarantee health care and social protection [illegible] to immigrant women (whether registered or unregistered) in the case of pregnancy and [illegible] motherhood, with the same rights as Italian citizens [illegible] Specific health-care service initiatives for immigrant women. These services are [illegible] health care assistance [illegible] often provided in collaboration with voluntary associatio [illegible] y in large cities. "Health" [illegible] and counselling services, but they have so far been avail [illegible] origin and, possibly, the [illegible] care for these women must take into account their cult [illegible] differences in their relationship with their own body and [illegible] and maternity. [illegible] Initiatives undertaken by the Health Ministry, in [illegible] tion with regional authorities, [illegible] tion of breast cancer [illegible]ented "cancer" which was undertaken by the National Commission for [illegible] prev [illegible] unities, and the growing interest and activity of NGOs, such as Europa [illegible] Equal [illegible] uses mass media (advertising campaigns, testimonials, ambassadresses) [illegible] Oppo [illegible] to build an awareness of the need for prevention. [illegible] The National Commission for Equal Opportunities, in collaboration with the Health Ministry, has created a "women and health" forum for the dissemination of information [illegible] concerning the mother-and-child project, and for the formulation of opinions and proposals concerning the implementation of the guidelines.

The "healthy municipalities" network has activated an Action Plan on reproductive health, pregnancy, delivery and post-partum healthcare, based on women's right to [illegible] prevention including cancer prevention measures. At national level [illegible] women's NGOs and healthcare workers are trying to introduce a culture of [illegible] and delivery more respectful of women. Three Italian regions (Marche, Emilia Romagna [illegible] monitor the patterns of assistance with regard to [illegible] and Toscana) have passed resol[illegible] excessive number of caesarean sections [illegible] and in view of reduc[illegible]

[illegible] Italy has always attached considerable importance [illegible] health issues and in particular to mother-and-child h[illegible] in this sector - which accou[illegible] promoting basic health care [illegible] for reproductive health were launched (for instance, a pilot project for two counseling services through UNFPA in Palestine and a similar project in Argentina, both [illegible] implemented by the NGO AIDOS). Other projects have aimed at [illegible] women's empowerment in basic health-care programmes (for instance in Angola [illegible] health-care workers will be given specific training to ensure that the [illegible] component is permanently introduced into health-care programmes. However [illegible] approach is not to finance specific initiatives for family planning, but rath[illegible] the role of women in basic health services.

II. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED

1. Scarce attention for a gender perspective

The Italian health authorities rarely adopt a gender perspective. In the Na[illegible] Plan, there are very few references to the health status of women in gene[illegible] specific pathologies affecting women as a consequence of their lifestyles [illegible]

2. Lack of facilities and services

As social and health care integration is lacking, women encounter greater difficulties in [illegible] prevention and treatment. Moreover, health-care services are differentiated and prevalent [illegible] prevalence of private-sector health care [illegible] distributed throughout Italy. In some a

4. Financial problems

The difficulties of recent years have focused attention on the cost of health-care services
sis. This has been achieved, at times, to the detriment
and on how to cover the
ittle attention being given to the matching of resources
of service efficiency level

- Foster favorable conditions for women in community centers (social centers and

s for all are often not ensured; also provide help for

ograms such as adult education. This would offer

nowledge levels the key to exercise many individual

the necessary tasks in daily living;

ns for all, avoiding ejection from one's house and

rhood. The right to continue to live at home is a

-being which must be protected;

ies such as hospices etc., with the possibility for the

ter to their rooms or parts of living room;

nergy and resources of women, empowering them to promote the

ing completion include the following:

and-child section of the National Health Plan is in the final stages of

project should deal not only with reproductive health, but also with all

ated aspects in the various phases of a woman's life. The project includes

elines for the Mother-and-Child Department concerning integration of

lth-care services to offer prevention, treatment and responsiveness to

structures will be strengthened in the system: delivery facilities and

vices;

the National Commission for Equal Opportunities entitled "Economic and

for the prevention of high-risk pathologies in the female population" is

otners), where equal oppo

low-income persons to a

persons with lower cultur

and collective rights and to

Guarantee housing

"deportation" from one's

condition for psycho-physi

Humanize residenti

residents to give a persona

Exploit the

therapeutic

The objecti

- The

approv

other h

functio

social

needs.

counse

- A st

social

soon to be published.

D. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Context

years, much progress has been made in Italy in raising the awareness of
o make violence, thanks to the work of women's movements in society and the
particularly after the 1997 Directive was issued. This progress has been
espite many contradictions and, at times, open hostility.
ve expressed their active solidarity towards the victims of violence through
some hundred different associations disseminated throughout Italy. This network of
nized 15 women's crisis centers sponsored by local authorities
which even have secret shelters, offer a range of services
el, psychological assistance, emergency help lines and other
ghtened the awareness towards violence
and highly complex. In recent years, the
violence and physical and psychological
ically doubled. Moreover, many of the
Health Plan.
ute (ISTAT), with a
A recent survey conducted by the Italian National Statisti
ercent of cases the
ntext of a trust-based relationship. The same observation
violence occurs withi
s crisis centers. Roughly 90 per cent of the women who seek
is reported by the
ve undergone physical and sexual violence in their families.
help from these ce
Moreover, research projects have been initiated in many Italian universities on both
scale of violence against women and its repercussions on their physical a
psychological health.
New issues have also emerged, such as trafficking in women and children and fem
genital mutilations (FGM). Trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitati
in Italy has involved women from Eastern Europe and Africa. This form of trafficki
is under the control of criminal organizations such as the Italian and Albanian mafi
It reduces thousands of women into a state of enslavement through the continuous i
and hundreds of girls who were born here.

I. Actions taken

The actions undertaken by civil society, by Parliament and Government (as indicated in the 1997 Directive) regarding this complex situation have focused on the following aspects:

1. Sexual violence.

2. Domestic violence.

3. Violence against children.

4. Sexual harassment and blackmail in the workplace.

5. Trafficking in women for the purpos

6. Female genital mutilation.

7. International activities.

Women in Beijing was the approval on

violence[18]. Twenty years after the

luction of the first draft legislation based on a citizens' initiative, for which 300,000

nent decided to star signatures had been collected, the Italian female members o

led their efforts. working together. They overcame their party differences, a

the violence against the person in the major breakthrough in the new

ouse, has been taken out of the psychological integrity of women, through s

into the category of crimes which category of offences against public morality, an

violate personal rights and freedom the other changes introduced by the new law

included the indication under the state act of sexual violence of rape and sexual assault

charges by the woman

mplaint in the case in question. This crime may also be prosecuted without the woman's fi

which it is associated with other crimes and, in particular, with gang rape, as

the case that the victim of the act of sexual violence is under age, disabled or

subjected to authority. By contrast the offence is not punishable if it is com

Women's Personal Rights

children under 13, as long as the difference in age between the two children is not over three years.

This law has not been fully implemented and monitored, but has already been amended by a new instrument that was introduced against the sexual exploitation of children.

To respond more adequately to the women who denounce sexual violence in many police stations throughout Italy, special investigation services have been org
Many training courses have been organized for social workers in a
The first emergency service for the victims of violence was organize
Clinic in Milan and the University of Rome carried out a first study
pathologies produced by violence.

The Minister for Equal Opportunities reached an agreement with IS
first national study on sexual violence and also coordinated a "
Project", with European Structural Funds backing in five Italian ci
Naples, Palermo and Catania). This latter project aims at investigating
the more marginalized social contexts and providing training to s
workers.

The network of Anti-Violence Crisis Centers in the Emilia Rom
conducted a first systematic assessment of its work over the last few ye
study is being carried out in Lombardy.

The first integrated project against all forms of tolerance towards v
women was launched in Bologna. This "Zero Tolerance" project is jo
by institutions and NGOs. It is based on prevention, the delivery of sp
and a awareness-raising campaign addressing the local community as a
Tolerance Project is becoming a benchmark for other Italian municip

2. Domestic violence

Acting on the proposal of the Minist

payment of family support. Thanks to the work of women and their associations, the
ity of violence in families is gradually being recognized by all. The Interior Ministry
organized specific training courses on domestic violence for law enforcement
ers.

olence against children

In 1998, the Parliament passed a law against the sexual exploitation of children, under the pressure of public opinion which had been strongly alarmed by a number of serious episodes of violence, abuse and pedophilia, as well as by the campaign engaged by many associations against sexual tourism.

Italian government, which had supported this hypothesis in the Rome Conference for the creation of the International Criminal Court in July 1998, approved a draft bill "Measures against tra[illegible] of human beings" on March 9, 1999[20]. It introduces the new crime of trafficking in human [illegible] into the Criminal Code as a modern form of [illegible] slavery that is punishable by [illegible] to 15 years of prison. The definition of [illegible] trafficking includes both trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation (prostitution and sexual enslavement in the home), and forced labor, involuntary service and other forms of enslavement.

of the initiative. This experience has been invaluable for the action of government and institutions, and it has helped Italy to contribute to an understanding of trafficking in women in international fora, as documented by the Parsec study.

6. Female Genital Mutilation

The Equal Opportunities Department, in collaboration with the Health and Social Solidarity Ministries, organized a **national seminar for obstetricians, gynecologists and pediatricians** whit the aim of helping them to understand and take proper care of the women who have undergone genital mutilations when they come to hospital for any kind of treatment or for delivery. This initiative has stimulated a greater awareness about FGM in universities and in many health workers who are organizing forms of response and forming regional guidance centers.

7. International activities

The international activities on violence against women are focused on providing

change the situation. The judiciary, also, is not immune. A recent ruling handed down by the High Court of Appeal created a scandal and was hotly debated in Italy. This ruling held that a woman who wears jeans is not "rapeable", as it is impossible to pull this type of trousers off without the woman's consent. A large part of the country, its institutions and cultural milieu, without any differences in political affiliation, spoke out loudly against this ruling. Not by chance, the office that collects the motivations of the judges' rulings has decided not to publish the motivation in this specific case, which means that this ruling will not go to form a precedent.

In other cases, male resistance and cultural and social complicity with violence is worsened by the lack of knowledge and adequate facilities. For instance, in the case of trafficking in women, the problems d[illegible] from the inability to see the difference [illegible] women victims or [illegible] of illegal immigration and the difficulty to raise [illegible] related to the size and com[illegible] it to the sex market [illegible] questions on male sexuality, [illegible] stimated reality. The embedded misconception is [illegible] Domestic violence is still an [illegible] and the rapist or abuser is a stranger. The strong family tendency to keep dirty laundry [illegible] cases of domestic violence still persists. Other problems, such as female genital mutilation, are [illegible] and [illegible] attributed to religious motivations towards [illegible] which the reaction is either that selection or the [illegible] [illegible] action for a insurance [illegible]

- Support to NGO's that are active against violence and, in particular, financing for the associations that work against trafficking in women, as provided by the law on immigration for the unpu
on of assistance and social integration programmes.
of a national number [illegible] the victims of trafficking to provide [illegible] Set
on where they can find information, shelter and assistance. The national indi
work in close connection with local networks that can offer these women cen
material assistance in escaping from the rackets, as envisaged by the law on immigration. pat
An information campaign will also be launched on this issue;
Establishment of a technical-scientific committee on female genital mutilation, for the systematic study of women who have undergone FGM and to develop guidelines for Italian universities and health-care centers on the right way to approach FGM, from both the health and cultural viewpoints, with pilot reference centers that collaborate with

survive, women are also having to cope with the repercussions of the physical and
gical violence that they have undergone, along with their children, and also
eing revealed. *the many cases of rape which they have suffered, as is incre*

ACTIONS TAKEN

The main actions taken by Italian women's organizations in the wake of the Beijing Conference consisted in the

1. **Policy making initiatives;**
2. **Legislative initiatives;**
3. **Continuation of the**
4. **Initiatives in Albania**
5. **Actions relating to th**

s in Bosnia and other areas of armed conflict;
o conflict.

Policy making initiatives

pport women in areas of conflict was provided by the
es and the Directorate General for Development
Guidance concerning ho
Minister for Equal Op
effort has involved
Specifically, this policy g
Italian Beijing Plan of Action
nities in
Organization of a workshop on this subject by the Minister for Equal
strategy
collaboration with the DGDC in February 199
alkans
adopted by the DGDC in the nineties following the warfare in Africa a
omen in
which called for a specific commitment of Italy to actions aimed at prom
areas of conflict
ess the
Strengthening of the DGDC's international initiatives on these issue
priority of an active role for women in the peaceful settlement of contu
Equal Opportunities and the DGDC in October 1998, on the approval of new guidelines
for the enhancement of gender issues in development cooperation and on the initiatives to
nership with UNIFEM (United Nations Fund for
A specific DGDC initiative

to refugees hosted by Albanian families and other facilities (Appl. Associa
Albanian women, etc.); as well as schooling (Comunità Sant'Egidio), social an
care, transport services, relief material (for instance the Train for Life organized
National Commission for Equal Opportunities with UNICEF), as well as per
many other activities.

II. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED

Despite these positive signs, in particular regarding emergency initiatives
cooperation and collaboration of government and civil society, the [illegible]
gender perspective in all sectors of conflict cannot be said to [illegible] successful.

remains to be done to enable women to draw
their human, political and economic rights from

ATO countries, for instance, has a political
[illegible] by a gender [illegible]
[illegible]
initiatives of European, Russian or
[illegible]
out and asked their governments
and in the choices relating to the
[illegible] peace, as recommended by the
[illegible]
pean Union Development Council.
support the government action and
ple. Other women, while equally
petrated by Milosevic, believe that
ather than helping to solve it. It has
women to debate the issues of this

ot a greater role of women in the
ng and peace-keeping, and the
ar from having materialized. This is
ent cooperation and international

Both nationally and international
new strength and a fresh awaren
the crises of the nineties.
The war between Yugoslavia
[illegible]
There have not been any national or intertia
American Women within institutions who have
for a more active participation in the political
[illegible] continuation of the conflict or possible sce
Beijing Platform and by many resolutions of
Women have been divided on the issue of wa
the NATO initiative in defence of the Kos
condemning the ethnic cleansing and aggres
the military intervention has worsened the sit
not yet been possible to find appropriate sett
war and to work out a common position.
More in general, the call of the Beijing Pl
various phases of peace-making, peace
participation of women in peace negotiations
especially the case in the interface of d

FRACTIONS

III. COMMITMENTS TO

As can be expected in the current situation, the future commitments revolve mainly around the emergency actions in Kosovo. The women's group in the Coordination Forum for government and voluntary organizations has decided to focus on the following aspects:

- Coordination and communication between the solidarity projects that are aimed at women and promoted and managed by women;
- Publication of a manual of training modules for male and female workers, a
- Initiatives to ensure that the humanitarian action should take into account shared criteria includi operational patterns in keeping with these criteria. The Department for Equal Opportunities and the DG humanitarian action in Kosovo which inc
- Sharing and management of information in camp planning, using socio-cultural facilitators to
- Specific and prompt training on gender issues for all humanitarian workers, both civilian and military, in government and voluntary organizations, governmental organi
- Attention to gender difference in responding to material needs, delivery of goods (such as underwear, sanitary towels, soap, etc.), camp logistics and health care;
- **The option to invest in women as agents**, and not only as passive beneficiaries of aid, tapping their potential for the refugee self-management of basic services and collective activities in camps, taking into account the skills of the women;
- **Enhancing the role of women in the peace process**, with initiat Kosovar women's potential for peace-building and reconstruction making use of the peace and human rights associations' capabilities, work that has already been done by Italian associations with women and from different parts of the former Yugoslavia (including Serbian as well as the grass-roots organizations of Albanian women.

ver the implementing partner,
tion to gender difference and
e drafted gender guidelines for
e conditions of women in the camps and
e needs and a common
ch approach to surveying the needs
ular regarding
sonal hygiene
identify the
coexistence,
porting the
ent ethnicity
tic women),

r market and in the economy in general is

The position of Italian women in t
illustrated in the first part of this re

I. ACTIONS TAKEN

within the framework of both Italian and
rey. The action of the European ministers for women who
nities, both
mainstreaming in all of the chapters and measures adopted.[23]
In Italy, the focus has been on the following issues:

oyment on
ding the economy.

1. **Promotion of women's entrepreneurship and se**
2. **Women's position in the labor market;**
3. **Time-use and family-friendly policies;**
4. **Economic benefits for maternity and families;**
5. **Participation of women in decision-making processe**

3. PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEUR

1.1 Actions taken

entrepreneurship than in the rest of Europe. There is, however, still a
respective propensity of women and men. It was considered that in the contex
for women in the labor market, self-employment and setting up new business
potential for reversing the gender gap in labor market participation.
the strength of this policy
ed
ne
on
ed
nitoring
the hat
e
vides funds for
tivities
out in Law 215/1992 funds
the start-up and development of women's entrepren
training
information
technical and managerial assistance to women

Belfast and Innsbruck, May and July 1998.

[23] See reports of the Informal Councils of Ministers for Women
[24] See Objective F1, J1, F2, F4, of Beijing Platform of Action.

The weakness, up until 1996, was the fact that the financing for Law 215 had been blocked for years. One of the first initiatives taken by the Minister for Equal Opportunities was to have this financing unblocked, with allocations of 43 billion lire in 1997, 80 billion lire in 1988 and 105 billion lire in 1999.

to this initiative surpassed the highest expectations and revealed considerabl
ial for development. In the first two years, almost 9,000 applications were subm
the creation of new businesses, and over half of these applications came from the
veloped southern areas of the country (Mezzogiorno).
and also to help it expand, other financial tools were used, not o meet this d
women specifically dri
Law 662/96 and Law 266/97 ("Bersani"), to facilitate access to The Guarantee
medium-sized businesses that cannot provide credit institutions financing to sm
with adequate collateral;
the "word-of-honor" loans (Law 608/96)
e start-up of a business idea, without demanding financial collateral;
ds (both women-oriented and general), incl o exploit the full potential b
following tools were adopted:
line (over 50,000 contacts from June 1997 A multimedia information campaign with a
al" and a guide on the national and 1997 till today), the broadcast of a TV co
w business creation (nat regional legislative tools that promote and s
onitor local and national legislation An Observatory on women's entrepreneursh

who are trained and assisted.[27]

effective mainstreaming policy.

In the case of gender-specific legislation, obstacles encountered were

the various options and phases in the life

and the request for personal collateral.

funds.

mechanism for the projects, without an

stor or of the feasibility of the new

to receive the financing envisaged.

An undifferentiated package of ben

cycle of a business (start-up and develo

The existence of financial facilitatio

Complex and costly procedures for

The adoption of an automatic se

assessment of either the risk for the pub

business initiatives

Commitments to further actions

entrepreneurship

so as to simplify

Law 215/92); and to adopt new implementing regulations for

procedure

the procedures for access to funds and reduce the cost of the bu

onal instruments

To coordinate the implementation of Law 215/92 with tha

local level

local development pacts and other forms of programming negot

n, and to

o introduce a gender impact parameter in business promotion

results on

adopt appropriate methodology for the monitoring and assessment

women's employment levels

d favor sectors with a higher concentration of

To promote adequate sectoral

female workers

vative cultural, social and caring services

excluded such

men inside and outside of prison", it is addressed to female detainees, who have received

27 The project is

- To promote a survey on women in business, their expectations, needs, and difficulties encountered in access to credit, start-up and consolidation of business; to study actions to help solve these problems.
- To develop an Intranet for the on-line management of data and information concerning the legislation on new business creation.
- To set up committees for the development of women's entrepreneurship in all of the provincial Chambers of Commerce that may provide information, technical assistance and support to new business [illegible]

[illegible] beneficiaries (for instance, young entrepreneurs) [illegible] Where laws set an age lim[illegible] raise these limits for women.

[illegible] order to include immigrant women [illegible] To extend legislative prov[illegible]

[illegible] LABOR MARKET[29]

[illegible] following three types of instruments to improve the [illegible] more disadvantaged ones) in the labor market:

[illegible] informal economy ;

[illegible] action.

2. WOMEN'S POSITION [illegible]

The Italian government has u[illegible] position of women (particula[illegible]

1. European structural fun[illegible]
2. Measures to regulate lab[illegible]
3. The law on aff[illegible]

2.1. European funds

[illegible] which used European funds to promote women's employment [illegible] The two main init[illegible] are:

[illegible] from the European Social Fund), to promote [illegible] A framework project (with 31 bil[illegible] [illegible] the re-integration and employability of adult women who have dropped out [illegible] [illegible] market in the regions of the Center-North. The p[illegible] [illegible] training courses and actions to support buc[illegible] [illegible] creation of new businesses [illegible]

initiatives should be taken to promote the employment of disadvantaged women, with

[illegible]

[illegible] access to training, actions [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] economy, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ther actions [illegible]

[illegible] gures that can help women in their integration in employment [illegible]

[illegible] etc.) [illegible]

[illegible] linked to sustainability of the new businesses (access to credit [illegible]

[illegible] venture capital, etc.) [illegible]

[illegible] services [illegible]

Commitment

- Train profes[illegible] (counsellors [illegible]
- Solve the [illegible]

2.2 Informal economy

Actions taken and obstacles encountered

Italy has a strong informal economy. This does not only apply to (women's) unpaid work (caring, family work, farming or in family-owned businesses) but also to work in [illegible] manufacturing and in other businesses that are unregistered, or only partially [illegible] especially in the South. There are many studies on this black economy (ISTAT, CENSIS, university studies, etc.), but none of this research has included [illegible] indicators. However, women appear to be heavily involved in the black [illegible] especially as workers in small manufacturing businesses to which work is out[illegible] sectors such as textiles, garments and shoe-making (where women account [illegible] per cent of the total workforce), farming and in other areas of self-employmen[illegible] To bring this black market employment into the registered economy, two new [illegible] have been called, on a trial basis. These contracts provide for an a[illegible] social partners and a set of government incentives to gradually bri[illegible] the black economy into the registered economy. So far, tex[illegible] agricultural businesses in the Mezzogiorno have been i[illegible]

Commitments to further actions

The contracts are being extended to other sectors where the production and [illegible] processes are harder to identify, and the social partners are less organized, by [illegible] these sectors into the plans for local development. [illegible]

[illegible] Law [illegible] between the [illegible] businesses that [illegible] e-making and [illegible] especially in Puglia. [illegible]

[illegible] Black [illegible] integ[illegible]

2.3. The law on affirmative action[30]

In 1991, Law 125 introduced positive actions into the Italian legislation, to promote women's employment and secure substantial equity between men and women in the

working time patterns with a choice of several flexible modules and guarantees on career

l-time module, if so desired. advancement and on the possibility of returning

on parental leave 3.3. A n

has approved a draft law on parental leave which is currently being The gov

ciament. The proposal which has been confirmed in substance by the examine

ght for both parents of House of Deputies Labor Committee, establishes the indi

of up to ten months, as children under 8 years of age to take leave from work for

ness. Prior to this, the well as to go on leave alternatively in the case of the chil

her only in the case in right to take a leave to care for a child was recognized t

ies that the parent may which the mother was a regular employee. The new law

eave take the leave even in the case that the other parent is not entitled to s

Moreover, the bill also envisages:

y family-friendly contractual provisions such as reversible Grants to companies t

ble working-time schemes, both incoming and outgoing, part-time, tele-workin

ons for parents of children under 8 years of age time banks and other

integration of workers after periods of extended leave Training programmes

Other leaves in case of special needs of the spouse, co-habiting partner and closer

relatives

Unpaid educational leaves with the guarantee of job maintenance

3.4. New regulations on night-time work

In Italy Law 903/1977 prohibited night-time work for women. In actual fact, the

absolute ban applied only to working mothers, and waivers could be applied to all other

female workers through collective bargaining. Labor contracts therefore established how

d be allocated to night-time shifts, in what ways and with many female work

bargaining round. The ban established by Italian law was which guarantees

same ruling on similar regulations in other countries. The grounds for

ld be all classical arguments of formal equity, a ban that applied to women al

ctive and obstacle to their access to work, as women's work would become les

less attractive to business.

against The Italian Minister for Equal Opportunities has steadily taken a

straightforward lifting of the ban against night-time work, despite the procedure initiated

provisions have been written into the law:

- Absolute ban to assign women to night-time shifts during pre
year of age of their child;
- No obligation for male and female workers to accept night-tim
under 3 years, or if they are the single parent of a child under
with a disabled person.

The law that was approved by Parliament on Jan 27, 1999, p
encourages the sharing of family responsibil

3.5. Time-use policies at municipal level

on to the mayor. This power was expanded by the Prodi
ations, over 100 Italian municipalities have adopted time
licies to diversify and increase the flexibility and open length use
of public services, shops, and schools, as a family-friendly measure.
s were negotiated between the Municipality and all of the social actors
ding in many cases women's NGOs. Local Exchange Trade centres
e been established by many of the local plans are managed by women.
citizens trade hours of work and/or caring and other social services on their
free and voluntary basis according to their specific needs and capabilities.

of public adm
government.
Using the nev
manager
working
Most of
concerne
(LETS)

4. ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR MATERNITY AND FAMILIES[33]

In Italy, maternity policy is still based chiefly on Law 1204/1971 which offers strong protection to employed workers (with two months of paid leave prior to delivery and three months of paid leave after delivery), but does not meet the needs of the women, mainly unemployed, self-employed, or engaged in other forms of work. In 1998, Parliament adopted the following measures:

[33] See strategic Objectives F1, C1, and F of the Beijing Platform of

efits to the working women who are currently
stered by the national security system, such as
ical contracts, etc.
to free-lance women workers registered with

- The 1998 Budget extended mater
not protected, even though they
self-employed workers, workers v
- A measure to ensure maternity b

G. WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION MAKING

Context

To talk about the presence (or, for that matter, the absence) of women in decision-making processes and roles means to address the difficult issue of the relationship between women and power. This relationship has fo complicated and often tortuous path in the past, with moments of light, but als dark clouds. The steps that have been made have often required a lead time before being translated into and stable results. The story of women and power has not been one of growth. Rather, it has been a long and winding road, where breakthroughs meant an absolute guarantee for the future.

The presence of women in the Chamber of Deputies, after a high point of per cent in 1994, only to fall, though less drastically, to 11 per cent in the latest 1996

In 1995 a set of provisions contained in various electoral laws (No. 81/1993, No. 277/1993, No. 43/1995), which had the aim of guaranteeing a gender balance in electoral lists, in various forms and proportions, was abolished by the Constitutional Court which adopted a very restrictive interpretation of the formal principle of the equality of all citizens enshrined in the Constitution.

As to government positions, for a long time, there were no women whatsoever in the Italian governments. This male monopoly was only broken in 1 when a first Italian Minister was appointed (Tina Anselmi). During the eighties and early ninet (with some ups and downs) a token presence of women in the many governments th followed gradually became the norm. Furthermore the crisis of the political party as t conventional form of political activity has resulted in a growing distance between t among young people and women. Inertias and three models of equality e

2. **European initiatives**
3. **Constitutional reforms**
4. **NGO's activities.**

1. Women in government

In 1996, with the government led by Prime Minister Romano Prodi, three women were

for Italy to highlight and disseminate information on a subject which until then had not been of particular interest. The European Conference which was entitled "Women for the Renewal of Politics and Society", and which was organized in Rome by the Network of Women and by the national Commission for Equal Opportunities, was a peak point in this process, and it culminated in the signature of the "Charter of Rome" on May 18, 1996, by the women ministers of the E.U. countries. This Charter, which was signed by the women ministers in the Prodi government on the day of their swearing into office, marked a turning-point in the European approach to the subject. The absence of women

s a deficit in democracy [illegible] ne themes and programmes [illegible] was here explicitly refer
of the Charter and the Conference were written into the Recommendations [illegible] of
the Council of the European Union "for a balanced participation of women and men in
decision-making processes", on December 2, 1996.

3. Constitutional Reform

In recent years, the National Commission and the Department for Equal Opportunities have carefully monitored the unfolding of the reform process in Italy. The National Commission for Equal Opportunities stimulated research on these issues and submitted to the Parliamentary Committee for Constitutional Reform (April 1997) proposals for amendments that were worked out with the input of female constitutional experts, to reformulate Articles 55 and 56 of the Constitution, as well as Art. 84 (the law promoting a [illegible] the full representation of women in the [illegible] of women [illegible]
making bodies. These amendments were subsequently [illegible] into the draft issued [illegible]
Parliamentary Committee in Art. 60, 77 and 107. Similar ideas were taken up by the [illegible]
ts draft legislation on constitutional reform, which would [illegible] D'Alema Governm
ed by the 1995 ruling of the Constitutional Court mentione[illegible] overcome the probl
above.

4. Ngo activities

for Equal Opportunities was very active on the subject of [illegible] The National Com
both in its work with the Women's Network in decision- [illegible] decision-making pr
ber of its own initiatives[34] [illegible] making, and throug

[illegible] Conference highlighted [illegible]
r for the government of the common good."

Women NGOs have also been very active both in their relations with public institutions and in the implementation of self-organized initiatives. In the second half of t

- some women's groups created women's "schools for politics", such as Emily in Italy, emulated the idea of the U.S. and British Emily's List, to pr strengthen the participation of women in politics.
- The Hannah Arendt School of Politics was created by the Orlando Asso Bologna, to the role of women in the public sphere.
- Another school of politics is active in the Veneto region, with th Opportunities Councillorship of the City of Venice.

Though these "schools" are very different one from the other, feature. The women who participate in the schools are not intere dominant male models in po may influence political m measures such as women's Democra statutes (

are a common adapting to the

is and practices. Regarding political parties, (between 20 and 40%) have been adopted by the some parties. In trade unions, an anti-discriminatory rule was included in the CGIL, nce, by the National Confederation CGIL).

S ENCOUNTERED

II. OBS

the introduction, the results obtained so far have been somewhat e, the stronger presence of women in government has not offset minated logic of its decision-making processes. Nor has trends that have been registered in the number of women elected key positions.

ry Committee for Constitutional Reform (the forum which was to of Italian democracy, and where the contribution of women's could have been of primary importance), the presence of women was even lower than the percentage of women elected to

ents of principle, the dominance of one gender in the upper n-making structures does not appear to be a problem for the men here is a form of male self-preservation which appears to be hard from, without generating conflict.

As mechanism piecemeal. For the basically countered the n to office or app In the joint Parl review the bas thinking and ex committee me Parliament.

Despite genera echelons in the who hold those

OMMITMENTS TO FURTHER ACTIONS

H. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Context

Prior to the Beijing Conference, the institutional mechanisms in Italy for the promotion of equal opportunities for women and men consisted in the following bodies:

- ***The National Commission for equality and equal opportunities between men and women, which was set up under Law 164/1990 and placed under the Prime Minister's Office.*** *The Commission comprises representatives social partners, women's associations and other representative a consultative capacity and provides policy guidance for activ equality between women and men and equal opportunities. Alt a consultative body, up until 1996 it also acted as a coordinato for all government action in equal opportunities. It organized and initiative at the Beijing Conference as well as in other inter*

ical parties, the
society. It has
ned at ensuring
was created as
oint of reference
an participation
fora for debate
initiatives for women;

- ***The National Committee for the implementation of the principles of equal treatment and equal opportunities between working women and men, which was set up in accordance with Law 125/1991 and placed under the Labor and Social Security Ministry.*** *The membership of this Committee includes representatives of trade unions and employers, as well as representatives of women's associations. The mo Committee advances proposals, provides information and sensitizes promotes the adoption of affirmative actions, gives its opinion on proje formulates codes of conduct, proposes solutions to collective disputes, the Labor Ministry Inspector's Office to investigate the employme workplaces; it also promotes appropriate representation of women in bodies that are competent for labor issues.*

opinion
rogress
request
ation in
ernment

- ***The Committee for women's entrepreneurship, which was set 215/1992[35], and placed under the Ministry for Industry, Trade an*** *Committee has responsibilities for the orientation and general prog initiatives set out in Law 215, and also for affirmative actions to pr*

der Law
s. The
g of the
women's
preneurship;

- ***The Equal Opportunities Councillors*** *that are present at the various levels of government (national, regional, provincial) as provided by Law 125/91. At the regional and provincial level, the equal opportunities Advisors act as the promoters of women's*

[35] On the set-up of the [illegible]

employment and as guarantors against discrimination, and they may bring legal action in cases of alleged discrimination.

These various bodies continue to be operational.

ACTIONS TAKEN

e, the National Commission for Equal [illegible] in the aftermath of the Beijing C[illegible]
ortunities took up the Beijing Platform, along with the Fourth Programme of Action [illegible]
Equal Opportunities of the European Union, as a definition of the scope of its work.
dopted the principle of mainstreaming and a gender perspective in its policy objects [illegible]
d government practices. In particular, the National Commission for Equal [illegible]
pportunities issued a document under the title of "Short and medium-term strategies for [illegible]
equal opportunities policy"[36] and it invited all of the equal opportunities committees [illegible]
the regional level to develop regional plans on the areas of concern for which the [illegible]
[illegible] regions had competence. The National Commission for Equal Opportunities [illegible]
[illegible] particular, the objective of ensuring that responsibility for the advancement o[illegible]
[illegible] at the highest level of government and it asked the Prime Minister [illegible]
April 1996 to appoint a Minister without portfolio or, alternatively, an Undersecreta[illegible]
State. This request was accepted and on May 18, 1996, the Rt. Hon. Anna Finocc[illegible]
was appointed as Minister for Equal Opportunities.
This first option was followed by other political and institutional decisions regardin[illegible]
following issues:

1. **The role of the Minister for Equal Opportunities;**
2. **[illegible] Equal Opportunities departments [illegible] the crea[illegible]**
3. **[illegible]ng and expansion of existing bodies;** 5. **The stre[illegible]**
4. **Public Administration;** 4. **The refo[illegible]**
5. **[illegible]t to generate and disseminate gender statistics.** 5. **The com[illegible]**

Minister for Equal Opportunities

1. The role [illegible]

[illegible]ed to the Minister for Equal Opportunities by both the Prodi and [illegible]
[illegible]ts are not defined on a specific or sectoral basis. Rather, they are [illegible]
[illegible]aming functions that cut across government policies as a whole. This [illegible]
[illegible]ans that the Minister for Equal Opportunities may legitimately interact with all other [illegible]
ministries and public administration bodies for the realization of the agreed objectives.
This delegation of powers substantiates the idea of a mainstreaming competence and it is [illegible]

The powers [illegible]
D'Alema g[illegible]
related to [illegible]

[36] The document was one of the first contributions to the Prime Minister's Directive of March 1997 which is Italy's Plan of Action to implement the Beijing Platform (see Part I of this Report).

achieved through innovative instruments, such as the attribution to the Minister of Equal Opportunities a power of veto over the instruments of the other ministers. This veto [illegible] Opportunities a power [illegible] inging the contested instrument back to the Council of [illegible] power has the purpos[illegible]

Another novelty introduced in the delegation of powers [illegible] Ministers for further du[illegible] gives the Minister the right to assist the Prime Minister in decisions concerning the [illegible]

This mainstreaming competence has been tested in recent months in connection [illegible] important political measures such as:

- the drafting of the Budget;
- the adoption of measures on immigration;
- the draft reform of the welfare system;
- the formulation of proposals for the Employment Action Plan and its implemen[illegible] Report;
- the new Social Pact;
- the drafting of important instruments at an international level.

[illegible] the Minister for Equal Opportunities, the Italian Plan of A[illegible] [illegible] ed on March 7, 1997. This [illegible] for the implementation of the Beijing Platform was [illegible] The Directive, which is [illegible] approval, took the shape of a Prime Minister's [illegible] of the state administration. It [illegible] illustrated in Part I of this report, is addressed to al[illegible] thorities, requesting them to [illegible] an instrument that provides policy guidance to [illegible]

entrepreneurship, and a committee for the coordination of government actions against trafficking of women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation[37].

3. Strengthening and expansion of existing bodies

The National Commission and the Department for Equal Opportunities work in a coordinated fashion, respecting their different responsibilities. Following the Beijing Conference, the Commission stimulated the dissemination of information and the promotion of a political and cultural debate on broad issues such as health, civil service reform, development cooperation, human rights, the fight against trafficking of human

mechanisms for equal opportunities have been expanded in geographical
ational Commission for Equal Opportunities has always given special
rengthening regional committees and local-level bodies, and it has

The ins
terms.
attentic

- Law No. 81/93, Art. 27, provides that the municipal and provincial statutes establish regulations to ensure the conditions for equal opportunities under Law No. 125/91. It also promotes fair gender representation in their governing bodies and committees, as well as in the agencies, institutions and companies reporting to the local authorities[39];
- Legislative Decree No. 29/93 (Art. 61), and subsequent amendments, specifically

[illegible]

National Commission for Equal Opportunities has introduced general princ
[illegible] European Programme of Action it has also introd
programs for the public administration offices. Mo
of professional and family life has also been intro
civil servants training on gender policy and equal
be offered to all civil servants, men and women alike. The Natio
Opportunities has its own representatives in the Government Co
reform of the civil service.
In the sphere of institutional powers, though at a different level,
Commission was established in the Senate in May 1996. The
of women Senators and female employees of all of the employment
Senate.

5. Generating and disseminating gender statistics

As set out in both the Beijing Platform and the Italian Plan
[illegible] and for government
After the Beijing
[illegible]
lives of women and [illegible] on specific aspects of social life that are of special importan
families, violence an[illegible] to an understanding of gender issues, such as the different fo
[illegible]
To consolidate this experience, the Government approved a draft bill on Feb. 25, 1999
hich is currently being discussed by [illegible] on the "Collection of gender statist
tion of gender-related statistics, and for [illegible] Parliament. This legislation calls for a g

Equal Opportunities Committee, issued a circular (No. [illegible]
nstitutionality of Art. 27, and envisaged, inter alia, the [illegible]
esence of both sexes".

[39] In May 1997, the Interior Ministry, responding to the [illegible]
8/87) Urae, which rejected the reservations on the subjec
"obligation for the statutes to envisage forms of promotio

gender-disaggregated data to be included in all statistical information, in the design, collection and dissemination phases. This initiative entails the need for the public bodies belonging to the national statistics system to update their survey methodology so as to

ity to gender differences.

II. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED

The fact that a Minister and a Department for Equal Opportunities have been set up do not in itself mean that the strong resistance in the public administration, even at t highest levels, towards women's empowerment policies has been overcom

Mainstreaming policy cannot be said to have fulfilled its potential. The powe delegated to the Equal Opportunities Minister are not limited to specific areas or secto but apply to all new policies. The Minister is responsible for the implementa of provisions taken on the initiative of the Department for Equal Opportunities, the Minister for Equal Opportunities never has direct competence. Instead, her competence must always be "brokered" with other Cabinet members.

At a local level, the work of the Equal Opportunity Councillors has been very difficult. These Councillors have had scanty resources and tools with which to carry out their two institutional functions of political initiative and bringing legal action against discrimination.

III. COMMITMENTS TO FURTHER ACTIONS

The areas where efforts will be focused are the following:

- **Mainstreaming;**
- **Actions against discrimination;**

pportunities policy

g

reflect on the best experiences of European governments and study how ordination of all sectors of the administration which is essential for id which was also set out as an objective in the 1997 Directive. It is transfer the best parts of the experience gained so far into the reform ecutive power, which will be based on a streamlining the powers of the Office, which will have powers in programming and coordination. ch is currently allocated to different administrations will be pooled.

1. Mains
It is impo
to achiev
mainstrea
also impo
process b
Prime M
Competen

st discrimination

2. Action

The experience of the Equal Opportunities Councillors and the National Committee at
Equal the Labor Ministry, and the three-year experience of the Departm
women Opportunities, all go to prove that there are many situations in which ind
nation. or groups of women complain about cases of what may, or may not be,
for complex reasons, there is
. The overall objective (which
Opportunities Councillors is to
orms of discrimination, not only
ce, language, religion, political
is to move in a multi-cultural
perspective without, however, losing sight of the specific features of gen
discrimination.

nonetheless, the need for political attention and i
will be implemented with ad hoc legislation on th
identify tools that may be used to deal with the v
gender-related, but also discrimination for reaso
opinion, and personal and social conditions. T

3. Local equal opportunities bodies

The National Commission for Equal Opportunities has launched a survey on the regio
ittees concerning their make-up, numbers, funding and
tudy has been entrusted to an ISTAT expert. The 1999
lira fund to strengthening the functions of Equal
aim is to issue regulations to redefine and strengthen
strengthen the legal tools available to the Councillors,
igh unemployment rates, and with reference also to
ing. The functions relating to enforcement of anti
so be reinforced. Other measures include an increase in
ompensation, a reassessment of the appointment criteria
f the Equal Opportunities Councillors, which will also

provincial and municipa
institutional counterparts
Budget adopted a 20
Opportunities Councillor
these functions, as well
especially in the areas
vocational training and
discriminatory regulation
paid leave, reimburseme
and a fund for the oper
cover the cost of legal s

I. HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

ntal human rights and
citizens alike, on equal
and freedom has been
w female awareness of
d. A woman's control over her own life and
freedom of choice in all aspects of public and
st women to be an integral part of their
s. The Beijing Platform came at a time of
ective awareness among women and in their
y as a whole. The Beijing process, its run-up and follow-up, reflected this
g awareness.
roughout the nineties, the Mediterranean region has witnessed explosions of
violence against women in the areas closest to Italy. These explosions were
d in the spread of fundamentalism, in particular in Algeria. It would have been
sible for Italian women to ignore what was happening at only a few hundreds of
a a kilometers from their country. The result has been a shift in men's
g. [illegible] the eyes of a [illegible] at [illegible]

In a democratic country such as Italy, the respect for
freedoms is guaranteed by the Constitution to male and
terms and without any gender-based discrimination.
In the last few decades, a new frontier in basic human
identified by women's movements and by the development
our country as in other parts of
body, her freedom from violence
private life are now considered
fundamental human rights and
strongly expanding individual a

this report, the center-left governments, which first came to
new momentum to the human rights of women, with the
er for Equal Opportunities. Parallel to this, the issue of
men and women, has increasingly come to the fore, both in
taly itself.

for the abolition of the death penalty (which is of special
not characterized by a gender perspective), Italy has been
s:

ternational Criminal Court;

[illegible] women victims in humanita

Women's role within the United Nations

Enhancem

I. ACTIONS TAK

As mentioned in Pa
office in 1996, hav
establishment of the
human rights in gen
international politics

1. The internationa

In addition to the c
importance, althoug
active on the followi

Establishment o

1.1. The International Criminal Court

The International Diplomatic Conference which adopted the Statute of the International Criminal Court in Rome on 17 July 1998 Italy contributed not only to the success of the Conference, but also to the introduction into the Statute of provisions to guarantee the human rights of women and a correct definition of gender-related crimes. The active presence of women in the Italian delegation to the Conference, and the close collaboration that developed on these issues between the Foreign Ministry, the Justice Ministry, and the Department and National Commission for Equal Opportunities were essential factors in achieving these results, as was the active dialogue between these institutions and women's NGOs.

1.2. The fundamentalism of women's rights

The main campaigns in which Italy has taken part aimed at the protection of the rights of women in Afghanistan and Algeria, and the rights of all of the women who are victims of fundamentalism and intolerance. Italy has also supported initiatives against female mutilation[40].

Examples of these efforts are given hereinbelow:

- A campaign called "A flower for the women of Kabul" was launched by the National Commission for Equal Opportunities in collaboration with the Equal Opportunities Department and the European Commission. This campaign received ample coverage in the media and it stimulated a series of complementary initiatives by NGOs, local associations and women's associations.
- The campaign to protect the rights of Algerian women, which was taken forward by CISA and other women's and peace associations, condemned the fundamentalist aggression, gave support to journalists, democratic women and teachers, and organized a collection of signatures against the Family Code which denies the basic rights of citizenship and equality to Algerian women.
- Economic cooperation projects were implemented by the national institutions, local governments and NGOs, often jointly, as in the case of the project by the Foreign Ministry and the Forlì Municipality for the building in Algiers of a center to assist traumatized women, or the projects to support Albanian women's NGOs.
- The initiatives of the "women in black" and other peace and solidarity groups to support the human rights of Palestinian women.

[40] See chapter D, "Violence against Women".

NGO [illegible] visible and vocal, often more so than the work carried out by government inst

1.3. Enhancement of women's role within the United Nations

Another sector in which Italian initiative has been stepped up following Bei institution of a Minister for Equal Opportunities, has been its work in fora **Commission on the Status of Women** and its contribution to the **Cedaw Co** Italy's Third Report on the implementation of the Convention for the elimi forms of discrimination against women, submitted in July 1997, was favorab by the Cedaw Committee. The contents of that report should be considered as integral part of our assessment on the implementation of the Beijing Platform in Italy.

The [illegible] Italian delegation's commitment to the approval of the additiona aw Convention. Throughout the negotiations, Italy has worked for st concrete possible definition of the possibility for women to have evidenced al Protocol to the broadest recourse.

uman rights of women in Italy[41]

t important initiatives have concerned the following:

- [illegible] women
- The rights of immigrant women
- The rights of women detainees.

2. Promotin

In this field,

2.1. The human rights of immigrant women

The considerable work done by associations and NGOs in projects for and integration of immigrant women has stimulated government initiati the fact that an immigrant woman is a member of the National Com Opportunities and that two women immigrants represent the National Commission, the Department for Equal Opportunities in the Forum on immigration set up by the So Affairs Department is highly significant. But the most important innovation was adoption on March 6, 1998, of the new law (**Law 40 on Immigration policy and regulation of entry and residence in Italy for citizens from non-European Un countries).**

assistance
his regard,
for Equal

[41] See also the chapters on "Violence against Women" (on trafficking, genital mutilation, etc.) and "Women in a conflict" (on the rights of displaced women and women refugees).

The government bill which was rapidly approved by Parliament (by Italian standards) was the fruit of a heated debate in the institutions and country at large. Women played a [illegible] role of primary importance in this [illegible] starting from one of the strongest promoters of [illegible] the law, the Minister for Social So[illegible] Livia Turco. A few of the salient provisions of [illegible] the new law [illegible] below: [illegible]

[illegible] e basic rights of the human person should be recognized to the [illegible] The principle [illegible] tanian territory, regardless of his or her nationality and legal status; [illegible] foreigner pre[illegible] emergency health care and to all of the entitlements relating to the [illegible] The right of [illegible] pregnant women are to be guaranteed to legal and non-legal [illegible] social protec[illegible] [illegible] Basic education is guaranteed to all children with exactly the same rights as Italian [illegible] children. [illegible]

The right to family unity: the text 12 provides that male and female immigrants who have a regular residence permit may request a similar permit for their spouses, underage children and dependent relatives, on the condition that they are able to provide them with [illegible] adequate lodging and to keep [illegible]

[illegible] policy for the social integration of migrants, was [illegible] instruments such as the "indefinite residence permit" and the position of "cross-cultural mediator" [illegible]

The creation of a national fund for migration policy, under the presidency of the Council of Ministers, to promote education, inspired by the criteria of living together in a multi-

The rights of Italian women abroad were the subject of the first Conference organized by the Foreign Affairs Ministry, CGIE, and the Department and Commission for Equal Opportunities, in November 1997. The conference was prepared, and followed, by an intense effort at networking with women belonging to various communities abroad. Equal Opportunity Committees were created in many cities (Zurich, Berlin, Frankfurt, ... Latin America, etc.). The National Commission decided ... an award for a ... university thesis on the condition of Italian women living abr...

inister regarding the
on for the protection
strument enables the

2.3. The human rights of female detainees

Another important legislative initiative of the Equal Opportu... human rights of women was the bill "Alternative measures to ... of the relationship of detained mothers and their children".

a detention sentence into alternative measures such as house arrest or ... probation, if the total sentence, or the residual number of years of detention, is unde... years and if the child living with the mother is under ten years of age.

This possibility used to exist only in the case of detention sentences of under three ... and until the fifth year of age of the child. Crimes such as association with the ... luded from the ... are contrary to the ... international ... trafficking ... abroad ...

OUNTERED

f obstacles to the initiatives undertaken were related ... ting international instruments. In the promotion of ... ed conflict, the gap that exists between the body of ... available for enforcement is dramatic. Indeed, the ... s even more heavily on the sphere of human rights ... because most of the violations occur within an individual state, and not in conflict ... abroad, and they may at times be the work of the ruling authorities themselves.

There is also a complex relation between a government's interest in promoting human rights and the other relevant national interests of an economic and geopolitical nature. Often these interests are not matching, and sometimes they impinge on the effectiveness ... of ... to ... the respect for human rights ... is a contradiction ... observed in the foreign policy of all countries.

Both of these two obstacles are not specific to the implementation of the ... Platform, but are on the table of the international community as a whole. Th...

II. OBSTACLE

On the international level, t... to the limited efficacy of ... human rights, as in the cas... international law and the ... issue of national sovereign...

[illegible]

J. WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

Context

The nineties witnessed a surge in the presence of women in mass media. The number of women hired in editorial staffs has strongly increased and, according to some estimates, most of the free-lance workers in the sector are women.

[illegible] lic radio and TV service, only one woman is an editor of a [illegible] staff are men. In there are many women in the editorial staff, they are scarcely news program, a echelons of journalists' career [illegible] represented in the [illegible] or is not, news are usually men. And the criteria that make Those who decide [illegible] news in the case of women are stereotypes. A recent study [illegible] between what women do and say in society and the way women ar [illegible] represented in the media. Newsworthy women are the exceptional women, the victims [illegible] -eaters, the leading top models. However, something has started to change in [illegible] ears thanks to the women who work in the media and the contribution given by [illegible] al Opportunities Department.

IONS TAKEN

[illegible] e earliest days of her mandate, the Minister for Equal Opportunities has [illegible] ced the inability of mass media to grasp the new element that women represent in [illegible] ety. She has complained about the layers of news based on stereotypes [illegible] as the lack of women in decision-making. Actions taken have concerned the [illegible]

[illegible] ervices [illegible] 1. The public radio a [illegible] paigns; [illegible] 2. Targeted informat [illegible]

[illegible] ce of women from the South of the world.

[illegible] radio and TV service

[illegible] hen the Italian public radio and TV service (RAI) renewed its Board of [illegible] three women were appointed for the first time. Prior to this, under the centre [illegible]

[illegible] Information and Power, which was chaired by Mrs [illegible] Minister of the [illegible] ance in cooperation with the journalists' trade union (FNSI), and the some [illegible] ated study by CENSIS on the presence of women in the media system. Data [illegible] particular se [illegible] production practices and on gender image reproduced by that system.

right government, a successful woman manager had been appointed as Chairman of the Board.

That same year, the Minister and the National Commission for Equal Opportunities, as [illegible] working in the radio and television [illegible] well as several women's groupings, [illegible]

service. Also in 1997, RAI approved "Duo", a research and pilot project for women's empowerment in the management and programming of RAI. The project, which was designed by the sociologist Marcella Chiesi, drew its inspiration from the Beijing Platform for Action. It was organized into three phases addressing top management, middle management and journalists and creative artists. The aim was to give them the [illegible] a stereotypical interpretation of the identity [illegible] tools and language they ne[illegible]

also aimed at implementing gender mainstreaming and [illegible] RAI, identifying male and female target audiences to [illegible] could be addressed. The tools used were workshops [illegible]

women and gender relatio[illegible] women's empowerment [illegible] which an innovative pilot [illegible] and action learning.

[illegible] integrated survey on the image of women put forward by [illegible] sponsored by the Minister and by the Commission for Equal Opportunities.

RAI also decided to condu[illegible] TV products. This initiat[illegible]

[illegible] information campaign [illegible]

The office of the Minister for Equal Opportunities has lobbied for a radical change [illegible] media stereotypes which show women as victims in need of protection and, generally, [illegible]

An example of the new trend is the first government [illegible] women's entrepreneurship, launched in 1997 [illegible] was an [illegible] the traditional and innovative skills of women [illegible] in a productive and creative direction. Many [illegible] learned to use media campaigns with confidence [illegible] voluntary contribution of the leading publicity [illegible] have included one for AIDS prevention launched [illegible] prostitutes, a campaign entitled "A flower for the [illegible]

a marginal part of so[illegible] information campaign [illegible] ironical campaign, that emphasize[illegible] and suggested that they could be [illegible] women's associations and NGOs [illegible] in recent years, often thanks t[illegible] agencies. Women-oriented camp[illegible] by the Committee for the civil ri[illegible]

[illegible] the Equal Opportunities [illegible] campaign to support Afghan women by AIDOS. The National Commission for Equ[illegible] [illegible] Opportunities created a [illegible] conference on these issues [illegible] the press and broadcasting services, which promoted [illegible] and Department [illegible] 1997, in collaboration with the Equal Opportunities Com[illegible]

3. The presence of women on-line

In Italy, roughly 30 per cent of Internet users are women. There has not been any
on to promote the use of new technologies. The only initiatives in this governin
taken by the female users themselves. A pioneering experience was that sense fa
which created a series of on-line conferences on a great variety of of Gon
1997, thanks to funding from the Bologna Municipality, the first female subje
by an association called Orlanda. It hosts Internet sites created by
women's associations and groups. A first survey on the presence of women on
conducted by info@perla, a feminist publication. A second survey is
underway. The webgirl network has also reached Italy, while the first women's
institutional site was created by the National Commission for Equal Opportunities

rom the South of the World in Italian media

4. **The image of**

nted in 1997-98 by AIDOS, an Italian association of women for
ding from the Foreign Ministry. Its aim was to give "positive
n women in developing countries." News on the political, social
hievements of the women of these countries. News that is, that
image as victims (without, however, neglecting the need to
s and difficulties). The project involved one hundred journalists
dio media.

A project was
development,
news to Italian
and entreprene
belies their tra
denounce their
in the press, T

COUNTERED

II. OBSTACL

The glass ceiling in the media means that mainstreaming and empowerment policies are hard to implement. While the image of women entrepreneurs has been successfully improved, there still is a lack of information on the work of women within society at large. With the exception of women's magazines, the traditional news circuits are reluctant to give up a stereotypical approach where women are either pretty images or the victims. Virtually the only media image of immigrant women is that given by the crime pages, where they are invariably associated with prostitution.

It has also been hard to pursue the projects that were launched in the past. The "Duo" project in RAI, which was supposed to be implemented in three phases, ground to a halt after the first.

The glass ceiling is not only an external imposition: in the media as elsewhere, women bear the burden of their dual role. In the Conference "Women, information and power" organized by the National Commission for Equal Opportunities in early 1998

where the news criteria and the approach to work are alien to a gender perspective, also clearly emerged.

III. COMMITMENTS TO FURTHER ACTIONS

The Minister for Equal Opportunities has the intention of re-launching targeted communication campaigns. A campaign is currently being designed for the women who are the victims of trafficking, to inform them on the opportunities offered by the new law on immigration to apply for residence permits and to receive social assistance if they wish to change their lives. The process of innovating the media image of women, which [illegible] the government's Beijing Conference [illegible] workers themselves, will also be revived.

Pursuant to the commitments undertaken by Italy for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions at the UN Earth Summit in Rio de Jan

This is a tax on fossil fuel energy products which increases progressively wi
of CO_2 released by their combustion. The tax will be phased in by 2005, and
a positive impact on the cost to consumers of more environmentally-friendly f

received great attention in 1997 when the first national
eas issued the new policy guidelines for the sector. This led to
on nature parks. The role of the regions was enhanced, and it
were extended by an additional 75,000 hectares, and they now
e Italian national territory.

n noise pollution
by environmental and consumers associations, the government
Working group (Environment, Health and Communications

noise abatement regulations for railways and
airports.

ment was launched. It is based on three main
waste reducing and energy and material
recovery from waste. The new legislation provides that as of Ja
waste disposed by technical specifications may be disposed of in landfills. Other waste disposed by
on treatment and recycling processes. Companies in the sector
us initiatives (in particular, the creation of CONAI, a national
ging, along with sectoral Consortia for plastic materials, wood
and paper). The government also defined a new system for urban
will shift from the basis of home size to a rate calculated on the
waste produced (with the aim of stimulating reductions in the
ced by households).
ent on non-perishable goods has also been reached for home
ors, washing machines, etc.), televisions and computers, to
cement of older, more polluting models with new-generation
a mechanism similar to that applied to motor-vehicles. The
not operational. As women have the main responsibility in home
more interested in these measures and are the targets of the
igns.

The natural park
conference on prot
a revision of Law
1998 the protected
account for 8 per c

Electromag
After the alarms s
set up an interm
In 1998 the Environment Ministry

Waste reduction, recycling
In 1997, a reform of urban waste
guidelines: reduction in waste pr
and restoral
have adopted
Consortium o
aluminium, gla
waste taxation
quantity and
amount of was
A programme
appliances (r
encourage the
agreement
economy
information

- **Areas at a hydro-geological risk**

Sarno, a small village in Campania that was buried under a mudslide [illegible] The tra[illegible] eyes, led to an effort to identify high-risk areas for landslides and floods [illegible] before [illegible] and to adopt various levels of protection measures. [illegible] through [illegible]

The Equal Opportunities Department, the Environment Ministry, and the Observatory for

Work in Agriculture within the Ministry of Agriculture

collaborate. It would be important for them to work

lay an appropriate role in this field. Numerous European

women who are well-informed consumers and producers

roduction of low-environmental-impact consumer goods,

ture, and also to the increased use of renewable energy

Women's Entrepreneurs

Policy have not yet be

together to ensure that w

studies have demonstrat

may be key to encourag

to the growth of organic

sources

despite the information campaigns and sex education initiatives (admittedly of variable number and quality throughout the country), girls do not have an adequate knowledge of their sexuality and of contraception. The existence of many counselling centers for

neutral approach was later questioned and modified, thanks also to the mainstreaming actions of the Equal Opportunities Department and to the pressure of women's NGO's.

2. Law to promote the rights of children

Law 285/97 "Measures for the promotion of the rights and opportunities of children and adolescents" has set up a National Fund for the promotion of the rights of children and adolescents with 800 billion lire for the 1997-1999 3-year period and 312 billion lire for 2000. The objective of the fund is to provide for the following:

- implementation of services to prepare and support the parent-child relationship, measures to combat poverty and violence, alternative measures to admitting children to educational-residential institutions;
- The introduction of innovative recreational and educational services for small children;
- Affirmative action for the promotion and protection of children's rights, for a better use of the environment and an improved quality of life, and for the [illegible] gender, cultural and ethnic differences.

3. Institutional mechanism to promote children

Law 451/97 set up Documentation and Analysis [illegible] and a National Observatory on [illegible] Children, chaired by the [illegible] Solidarity Minister and comprising experts [illegible] representatives of the various ministries that have [illegible] ence in under the children, [illegible] representatives of local authorities, members of [illegible] ons, voluntary workers and [illegible] social cooperatives. The Observatory prepares a [illegible] ction for the protection and [illegible] development of children every two years. [illegible] responsibility for guid[illegible] d monitoring over the implementation of international [illegible] agreements and Itali[illegible] lation on the rights and development of children. Also, the [illegible] National Day for the Rights of Children and Adolescents was established and it is [illegible] celebrated on Nov. 20, the day that the U.N. Convention was signed. [illegible]

A national and international Conference was organized with UNICEF Italy to review [illegible] United Nations convention on children's rights in the light of the Beijing Platform [illegible]

4. Other Commitments

[illegible] and social norms [illegible] Cases of Cruelty, such as [illegible] [illegible] A Code of Conduct for TV, which commits public and private secto[illegible] broadcasters to improving the quality standards of television programming fo[illegible]

- The Charter against the exploitation of child labor in which the government, employers' associations and trade unions are committed to supporting the ILO Convention on the exploitation of child labor, sustaining the work of NGOs in prevention and elimination of child labor, and combati[illegible] sensitization campaigns aimed at tourist agen[illegible]

[illegible] tourism through legislation and [illegible] this field, Italy adhered to the [illegible] campaign and Child Prostitution Affected Tourism, through [illegible] Terra Nuova, a coordination of NGOs.

5. Local and NGO activities

The regions have adopted a comprehensive framework for the implementation and

guidelines that are addressed to all institutional services and agencies that w
children.

- In early 1999, Parliament passed a law ratifying the Hague Convention, wh
been signed by Italy in 1993, on the protection of minors and on cooper
international adoption.
- The Environment Ministry launched a programme of positive actions fo
[illegible] "Child-friendly cit
lities that have adopted the best environmental and town planning policies to
protect and enhance the education of children