

## **DIRECTOR'S WELCOMING SPEECH**

### **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2018**

#### **8<sup>TH</sup> GENDER PROTECTION IN PEACE OPERATIONS COURSE (GP 08)**

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> GENDER PROTECTION IN PEACE OPERATION COURSE, AND TO THE CONCURRENT CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.

I AM PARTICULARLY PROUD AND HONORED FOR THE PRESENCE OF MANY SPECIAL GUESTS, BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL, AND FOR THE CONSPICUOUS REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR PARTNERS FROM THE EUROPEAN GENDARMERIE FORCE STANDING HEAD QUARTERS.

IN PARTICULAR, IN ADDITION TO THE ATTENDEES OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> GENDER PROTECTION IN PEACE OPERATIONS COURSE, THE AUDIENCE IS ENRICHED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE NUMEROUS OFFICERS ALREADY ATTENDING THE 8<sup>TH</sup> TRAINING BUILDING COURSE AND THE 1<sup>ST</sup> TRAINING OF TRAINERS COURSE IN PEACEKEEPING, CIVILIAN PROTECTION AND RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT, FOR A TOTAL OF 83 ATTENDEES FROM 28 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

LET ME START BY THANKING Ms. PRAMILA PATTEN, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, FOR THE VIDEO MESSAGE SHE SENT TO EXPRESS THE UN APPRECIATION TO THE PRESENT INITIATIVE.

IN THE SAME WAY, I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK MR. LEWIS EISENBERG, UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO ITALY, FOR HIS VIDEO ADDRESS THAT WILL BE SCREENED IN A FEW MINUTES, AIMING TO CELEBRATE THIS SPECIAL OCCURRENCE AND TO REAFFIRM THE COOPERATION WITH COESPU IN A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS GLOBAL PEACE OPERATIONS INITIATIVE.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO MRS. NIMISHA PANDEY, UN POLICE REFORM ADVISOR, ON BEHALF OF MR. CHRISTOPH BUIK, DIRECTOR OF THE UN STANDING POLICE CAPACITY.

IN THIS OCCASION, YOUR PRESENCE IS THE MOST TANGIBLE RECOGNITION OF THE CLOSE COLLABORATION AMONG OUR RESPECTIVE INSTITUTIONS IN DEVELOPING NEW CONCEPTS, DOCTRINE AND TRAINING CURRICULA.

I AM PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL TO:

- MR. UMBERTO GUIDATO, LOCAL PREFECT;
- THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, HERE REPRESENTED BY ASSESSOR ISABELLA SALA, ON BEHALF OF THE MAYOR OF VICENZA MR. ACHILLE VARIATI;
- MR. LUCA ZAIA, GOVERNOR OF THE VENETO REGION, WHO SENT A LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS;
- TO MS. ELENA DONAZZAN, REGIONAL ASSESSOR FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT;
- TO MS. MARIA PAOLA MARINI DIOMEDI, DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER, ON BEHALF OF THE LOCAL CHIEF OF POLICE MR. GIUSEPPE PETRONZI;
- MS. CRISTINA ARBAN, ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL COURT MR. ALBERTO RIZZO;
- MS. ORIETTA CANOVA, LOCAL DEPUTY PROSECUTOR.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, A WARM WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITIES OF MILANO, TRENTO AND PALERMO, HERE RESPECTIVELY REPRESENTED BY PROFESSOR GABRIELLA VENTURINI, WHO WILL BE DELIVERING A “LECTIO MAGISTRALIS” ON GENDER TOPICS, PROFESSOR PAOLO FORADORI AND PROFESSOR MARIA GABRIELLA PASQUALINI, AS WELL AS TO PROFESSOR SABRINA BURATTI AND HER STUDENTS OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE CLASS, COMING FROM THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL FOGAZZARO.

THEIR STRONG SENSITIVITY TO OUR ACTIVITIES DEMONSTRATES THE GREAT IMPORTANCE GIVEN TO THE COESPU EFFORTS IN CONTRIBUTING

TO PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE, SUCH AS WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

I TRUST I CAN STATE WITH CERTAINTY THAT WHAT WE ARE DOING TODAY, IN THIS OPENED-DOOR TRAINING DAY, IS INDEED EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IS A GLOBAL DAY CELEBRATING THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN.

EVERY YEAR THE "8<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH" IS CELEBRATED IN MANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. THIS SPECIAL RECURRENCE PAYS HOMAGE TO ALL WOMEN BY RECOGNIZING THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS WITHOUT REGARD TO DIVISIONS, WHETHER NATIONAL, ETHNIC, LINGUISTIC, CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS, ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL.

THIS SPECIAL DATE IS AN OCCASION TO REFLECT ON PROGRESS MADE, TO CALL FOR CHANGE AND TO CELEBRATE ACTS OF COURAGE AND DETERMINATION BY ORDINARY WOMEN WHO HAVE PLAYED AN EXTRAORDINARY ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF THEIR COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES.

THE 2018 UN WOMEN'S DAY IS PROMOTED BY THE FOLLOWING LEITMOTIF: "TIME IS NOW: RURAL AND URBAN ACTIVISTS TRANSFORMING WOMEN'S LIVES".

TO HIGHLIGHT THE RELEVANCE OF THIS TOPIC, I WOULD LIKE TO RECALL THE STATEMENT OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, MR. ANTÓNIO GUTERRES: "ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, LET US ALL PLEDGE TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO OVERCOME ENTRENCHED PREJUDICE, SUPPORT ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVISM, AND PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT."

THIS YEAR, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COMES ON THE HEELS OF UNPRECEDENTED GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND JUSTICE. SEXUAL HARASSMENT, VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN HAS CAPTURED HEADLINES AND PUBLIC DISCOURSE, PROPELLED BY A RISING DETERMINATION FOR CHANGE.

ECHOING THE PRIORITY THEME OF THE UPCOMING 62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE RIGHTS AND ACTIVISM OF RURAL WOMEN, WHO MAKE UP OVER A QUARTER OF THE WORLD POPULATION AND MAJORITY OF THE 43 PER CENT OF WOMEN IN THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE.

THIS DAY ALSO MARKS A CALL TO ACTION FOR ACCELERATING GENDER PARITY.

IN THIS REGARD, THE COESPU GENDER PROTECTION COURSE HAS REACHED ITS 8<sup>TH</sup> EDITION. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF LESSONS LEARNED STEMMING FROM PREVIOUS EDITIONS AND OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UN DOCTRINE AND GUIDELINES, ITS CURRICULUM HAS BEEN EXTENSIVELY UPDATED AND IMPROVED, IN LINE WITH THE COESPU'S COMMITMENT TO GENDER TRAINING, CONSIDERED AS A PRIORITY AND A CROSS-CUTTING SUBJECT NOT ONLY IN THIS SPECIFIC COURSE BUT ALSO IN ALL ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN OUR CENTER OF EXCELLENCE, SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN YEAR 2005.

FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE, I AM GLAD TO ASSESS THAT, TODAY, WE HAVE A SIGNIFICANT AND FAIRLY GENDER BALANCED AUDIENCE AMONG OUR STUDENTS, AS DEMONSTRATION OF THE IMPORTANCE GIVEN TO THIS ISSUE BY THEIR SENDING STATES.

GENDER PROTECTION DOES NOT MEAN ONLY WOMEN'S PROTECTION, BUT REFERS TO A GENERAL EFFORT AIMED AT SUSTAINING, SUPPORTING, PROTECTING ALL COMPONENTS OF OUR SOCIETY OBSERVED FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SPECIFIC GENDER LENS, WHILE APPLYING DETAILED GENDER ORIENTED ANALYSIS.

THIS APPROACH ALLOWS PEACE OPERATORS TO ASSESS IN WHICH WAY AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE CONFLICTS AFFECT EACH CATEGORY, AND TO DETECT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS THE INTERNATIONAL POLICE CAN BETTER TAILOR THEIR ACTIVITY AND THEIR ACTION IN ORDER TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT WOMEN, MEN, BOYS AND GIRLS, THROUGHOUT THE DIFFERENT CHALLENGES AND THREATS THEY FACE, IN CRISES SITUATIONS.

DEAR 8<sup>TH</sup> GENDER PROTECTION STUDENTS, DURING THIS COURSE YOU WILL BE WORKING WITH SOME OF THE MOST EXPERT SPECIALISTS IN THE FIELD, CARABINIERI OFFICERS, UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS OR ACADEMIC SCHOLARS WITH LONG LASTING AND QUALIFIED EXPERIENCE IN PEACE OPERATIONS.

A SPECIAL FOCUS WILL BE GIVEN ON GENDER PROTECTION AND PREVENTION, WITH THE COMMON AIM TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE MOST UPDATED SKILLS AND TOOLS FOR CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION ON SPECIFIC SETS OF CRIMES, SUCH AS CONFLICT RELATED SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND CHILD ABUSE.

IN THIS FRAME, WE STRONGLY SUPPORT AND REAFFIRM THE UN “ZERO TOLERANCE” POLICY, AS WE WORK DEEPLY TO IMPLEMENT THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

OUR COMMITMENT ON THESE TOPICS IS UNDOUBTEDLY INSPIRED BY UNITED NATIONS CORE VALUES, NAMELY INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM AND RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY, ALSO INCLUDING TRAINING ON GENDER RELATED ISSUES AS ONE OF THE PRIORITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

IN THIS EFFORT COESPU REAFFIRMS ITS COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATION DPKO POLICE DIVISION AND ITS STANDING POLICE CAPACITY, IN ORDER TO MAINSTREAM GENDER SENSITIVE POLICING AS AN OPERATIONAL NECESSITY TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC SECURITY NEEDS OF WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT, THANKS TO YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE TRAINING, AND TO THE FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS TO BE DEVELOPED AND THAT WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO REACH THE FINAL OBJECTIVES THAT YOUR COURSE HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED FOR.

DEAR STUDENTS, I REALLY HOPE YOU WILL HAVE A PLEASANT STAY IN VICENZA, AS I AM MORE THAN SURE THAT YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL BE PROACTIVE BRINGING A REAL ADDED VALUE TO THE TRAINING ACTIVITY.

I CONCLUDE BY ENCOURAGING YOU ALL TO EXPLOIT THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR DEVELOPING PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND BUILDING A STRONG NETWORK, FOR FUTURE PROFESSIONAL COOPERATION AND, WHY NOT, DURABLE FRIENDSHIP.

ONCE AGAIN, HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND WELCOME TO ITALY AND TO CoESPU!