



# ITALY

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

52<sup>nd</sup> SESSION

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Check against delivery

Mr. Chairperson,

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement that delivered by Slovenia on behalf of the European Union.

The hopes and lives of millions of people depend on the renewed strength of the

Yet the strength of the world's women is overwhelming and can bring about historic changes. Strong women leaders have risen and asserted themselves in the political and moral realms. I am referring to Aung San Suu Kyi and Ingrid Betancourt. They pay a high price for their courage in standing up for their convictions, and even make the ultimate sacrifice, like Benazir Bhutto. The international community must request the immediate release of Ingrid Betancourt, as well as of all of the women and children kept hostages as we will discuss later in this session.

It is essential that this session, too, conclude with the request that governments adopt measures and laws to combat every form of discrimination against women and to foster respect for their human rights, their value as human beings, their freedoms, autonomy and dignity.

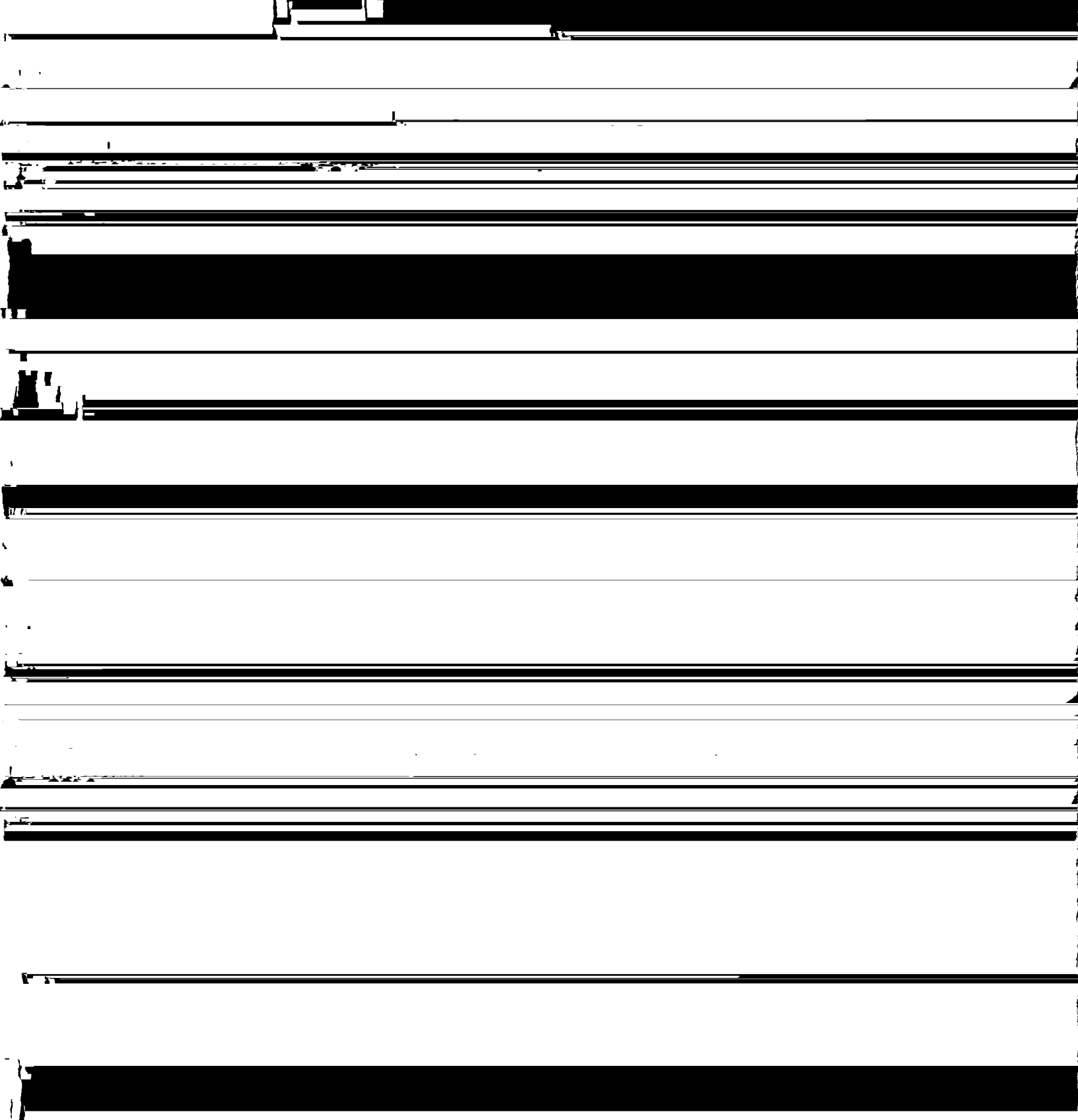
To honor the Universal Declaration means shouldering the moral imperative of saying NO to:

- Human trafficking and exploitation
- All forms of desecration and mutilation of the female body
- Segregation and persecution of those who choose to lead free and autonomous lives

The practice of sex-selective abortion, a result of which hundreds of

On these issues, the Italian government – together with women’s associations and movements – has started a multi-year action plan for women’s rights and equal opportunities.

*With reference to human rights:*



its ~~term~~ during its two year term as an elected member of the Security

Council.

~~Member of the Council shall be elected by the Council~~