



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

## **Convention on Cluster Munition - Second Review Conference**

### **Agenda item 7: Reaffirming the determination to put an end to the suffering caused by cluster munitions**

**delivered by Amb. Gianfranco Incarnato,  
Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament**

*Geneva, 20 September 2021*

Mister President,

At the outset, let me express our gratitude to you, your team, the Secretariat and the ISU. We appreciate the efforts you have made to accomplish the work of the Review Conference under such difficult circumstances.

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. Let me add some remarks in my national capacity.

Mister President,

The Convention is an important milestone on the way to a more secure and peaceful world. With its overarching goal of putting an end to the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions, the Convention has written a fundamental chapter of International Humanitarian Law.

During its short lifespan, the CCM has achieved substantial progress. From many points of view, we are on the right track. However, a lot is still to be done and other serious challenges remain. In this perspective, the Review Conference is the occasion for us not only to take stock of the progress achieved so far, but also to take up with a renewed impulse the existing challenges towards the full implementation of the Convention and the fulfilment of its ultimate goal: a world free of cluster munitions, without any new victims, and where sustainable care and support to their re-integration in the society is provided for those who have been injured.

Therefore, Italy welcomes the Review Document of the Dubrovnik Action Plan, the Lausanne Action Plan and the Lausanne Declaration and looks forward to their adoption. These highly valuable documents will provide guidance for our actions during the next review cycle.

Mister President,

Fully sharing the guiding principles of the CCM, since the beginning of negotiating process Italy has supported the Convention and is engaged in fulfilling its national obligations.

Looking ahead, we believe that high priority should continue to be given to the universalization of the CCM. Italy regrets that many States, including the major possessors and producers, are still outside the Convention. We urge all States not yet Parties to join the CCM and so to give their concrete contribution to build a safer world.

Reports of alleged use of cluster munitions in conflict areas further add to the importance of pursuing universal adherence. In this respect we are deeply concerned by the impact on civilian populations of the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions, including the extensive use of cluster munitions in Syria, as well as uses in Yemen, Libya and most recently in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Mister President,

Italy attaches great importance to its responsibility - enshrined in Article 6 - to provide technical, material and financial assistance to States Parties affected by cluster munition, aimed at the implementation of the obligations of the Convention.

Accordingly, we have been supporting mine action in a concrete way, especially in the field of clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance, including cluster munitions remnants, stockpile destruction and assistance to victims. A dedicated Trust Fund for Humanitarian Demining was set up by law in 2001, allowing the allocation of resources to mine action projects relating to cluster munitions, anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war.

Since then, Italy has devoted more than 62 million Euros to Mine Action programmes and has doubled its budget for 2021 with respect to 2020, as a sign of renewed commitment to mine action in all of its dimensions.

I would also like to highlight the extensive clearance of explosive remnants of war conducted by the Italian Armed Forces operating abroad. In our view, mine action is more than a purely humanitarian concern, although humanitarian considerations remain as relevant as ever. It has rather become part of States' development efforts. Hence, the need to address the issue of granting to the victims of cluster munitions the full realization of their political rights, as well as their economic inclusion and adequate social protection measures. In this regard, Italy wishes to emphasize in particular the importance of a human rights perspective in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We also highly value the development of partnerships between States and all the other actors involved in the implementation of the Convention. We welcome in particular the fundamental role that civil society has played since the very beginning of the Oslo process and is still playing in the CCM framework. In Italy there is a strong interaction between Government authorities and Civil Society and the latest meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Mine Action, which includes all relevant actors - first and foremost the Italian NGOs - was held in July at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mister President,

Italy acknowledges with satisfaction the work of the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention and we are grateful to the GICHD for hosting it. In order to show our commitment, we are glad to confirm that we will continue our financial support to the ISU. Moreover, the imminent signing of the technical cooperation agreement between the C-IED Centre of the Italian Ministry of Defence and GICHD will offer further opportunities of bilateral cooperation.

Before concluding, Mr. President, allow me to express our belief that, working for the objective of a world free of cluster munitions, we cannot but share the parallel aspiration to a world free of anti-personnel mines, as well as of any other explosive remnants of war. Being party to both the Oslo and Ottawa Conventions, Italy pays special attention to the development of all possible synergies between them and with other relevant international fora.

Thank you, Mister President.