



**Seventh Meeting of the States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Geneva, 4-6 September 2017**

**Statement by Ambassador Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

Universalization

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment and to thank you, your team, the Coordinators, and the Implementation Support Unit for effectively guiding our preparations for this meeting. I can assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. President,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions 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 new, fundamental chapter of International Humanitarian Law. Italy has supported the CCM process from the start, and is fully engaged in implementing its provisions, both nationally and internationally.

We are convinced that universal membership to the Convention is a central element in effective implementation. If we want to rid the world of the terrible scourge of cluster munitions, we need the highest possible number of States united towards the same goal.

We are pleased that two new States joined the Convention in 2017, thus bringing the overall number States to 102. We warmly welcome Madagascar and Benin and we look forward to working with them for the accomplishment of the objectives of the Convention.

Mr. President,

The Dubrovnik Action Plan established the ambitious goal of reaching 130 States Parties by 2020. Therefore, we must renew our commitment to promote the universalization of the CCM, and do our utmost to reach out to States not party to facilitate their adherence to this process.

In this regard, we continue to support the actions put in place by the Presidency and the Coordinators on universalization towards signatory States and States not party.

Thank you, Mr. President