



**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties  
Geneva, 26-30 November 2018**

**Statement by H.E. Gianfranco Incarnato  
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

**International Cooperation and Assistance**

Madam President

First of all, I would like to join other delegations in expressing our appreciation for the work conducted by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Madam President,

Despite the important results we have collectively achieved since the adoption of the Ottawa Convention, we should not underestimate the challenges still ahead of us. As was also underlined during the discussions these past few days, enhanced international cooperation and assistance is essential to overcome these challenge and to achieve the goals of the Convention.

Italy welcomes the conclusions outlined in the Committee's report. In particular, we commend the continued efforts of the Committee to develop the individualized approach, providing mine-affected State Parties with an improved platform for building partnerships, fostering regional cooperation and facilitating engagement with the donor community, mine action operators and other stakeholders. We also welcome the Committee's regular dialogue with the Committees on Victim Assistance and Article 5 implementation and the attention it has devoted to gender analysis and gender mainstreaming in order to improve operational effectiveness in mine action and advance human rights. We encourage the Committee to continue its efforts in this direction and stand ready to assist its members in such endeavors.

Madam President,

At the national level, we attach great importance to our responsibility to provide technical, material and financial assistance to States Parties still affected by antipersonnel mines.

Since the establishment off the “ Humanitarian De-mining Fundthe Italian Cooperation has devoted close to 55m EUR to Humanitarian Mine Action programmes, focusing on clearance, stockpile destruction, risk education and victim assistance. In 2017, recipients included Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Gaza Strip, Libya, Somalia and Sudan, for an overall amount of 3,3 million euros. In 2018, we have allocated a total of 3,7 million euros to humanitarian mine action programmes.

Italy also fulfills its obligations in this field through non-mine action funding. For example, last year we allocated 3 Million Euro over 3 years to the “Program for Humanitarian Impact Investment”, implemented with the International Committee of the Red Cross, other donors and private sector partners.

Throughout the years, we have provided extensive support not only towards the immediate goals of clearance and stockpile destruction, but also the longer-term objectives of assisting victims, as well as of raising awareness of the risks associated with any ERW.

In implementing its integrated mine action programmes, Italy has partnered with several institutions, including UNMAS, the GICHD, the ICRC, and the Italian Section of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. This has enabled the participation of all relevant actors and stakeholders, maximizing the contribution and impact of all available expertise and knowledge.

Italy has also been a long-standing supporter of the Implementation Support Unit of the APMBC, whose role has been central in assisting States Parties with implementing the Convention’s provisions and in promoting universalization.

We are convinced that cooperation and assistance does not only relate to financial support, but also to the sharing of expertise, technical know-how and experience. In this regard, I would like to highlight the clearance of explosive remnants of war conducted by the Italian Armed Forces operating abroad, notably in Afghanistan and Lebanon.

Our Armed Forces rely on the support of a dedicated national Centre of Excellence for countering all types of explosives devices. The Centre of Excellence is also engaged in training and capacity building activities with third countries, such as Colombia and Vietnam, for facilitating demining operations.

Finally, let me reiterate our firm belief that humanitarian demining should not only be seen as a tool for the protection of individuals’ and communities’ safety and security, but also as a necessary step towards sustainable development. In this regard, we highly value the conclusions of the study conducted by the GICHD, in cooperation with UNDP and with the Italian financial support, entitled “Leaving No One Behind: Mine Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, We are determined to work in order to translate the results of this study into concrete initiatives, also continuing our cooperation with the GICHD.

Thank you, Madam President,