



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction

4th Review Conference

Oslo, 28 November 2019

Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance

**delivered by Mr. Tancredi Francese,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

Mister President,

Italy remains deeply convinced of the important role of international cooperation and assistance for our common work in the framework of the Convention. For Italy, this is more than a legal obligation. It is a long-standing commitment, as a part of our comprehensive approach to mine action.

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 anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war. Since then, Italy has devoted more than 58 million Euros to Mine Action programmes, with a particular focus on clearance, stockpile destruction, risk education and assistance to victims.

Mister President,

In 2019, Italy is supporting UNMAS activities in Iraq, Colombia, Palestine, Sudan, and Syria, relating to clearance, mine-risk education and survivor and indirect victims assistance. Our country is also contributing to ICRC activities in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia, relating to survivors' physical rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration.

Moreover, the Italian Cooperation works together with UNDP in Yemen, for national mine action capacity development and related technical support for detection and clearance operations, and with UNICEF in Ukraine, for activities relating to mine-risk education in schools.

Finally, Italy is supporting the OAS in Colombia, for activities relating to psycho-social and reinsertion assistance to ERW survivors, and Peru, in a project of technical assistance for demining activities.

Mister President,

In carrying out these activities, we strongly believe that international assistance should not be limited to financial support, but should also include, to the extent possible, the sharing of experience, knowledge, and practical know-how. On this point, let me recall the involvement of the Italian Armed Forces operating abroad in clearance of improvised explosive devices and explosive ordnance disposals, and the support of a dedicated national Centre of Excellence for countering all types of explosives devices, which has also been engaged in training and capacity building activities with third countries.

Our collaboration with several actors in the implementation of their integrated mine action programs also shows the Italian commitment for multilateralism. Such partnerships – at all levels, with the UN, other international and regional organizations, civil society and survivors' organizations – are an effective way to fully implement the Convention, maximizing the contribution and impact of all the available expertise and knowledge.

Before concluding, Mr. President, I would like to stress that the notions of "national ownership" and "donor coordination" are two key tenets of Italian Cooperation, including in humanitarian demining. Therefore, we greatly value initiatives such as the Country Coalition as well as the Individualized Approach, which translate these two notions into practice also in the framework of Mine Action. For this reason, we welcome the activities that have been conducted in their implementation.

Italy stands ready to contribute to all such efforts, geared towards enhancing the effectiveness of international assistance through greater coordination among all relevant stakeholders and at all levels, from multilateral to local.

Thank you, Mister President.