



**The 2013 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on
Certain Conventional Weapons
(Geneva, 14-15 November 2013)**

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

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives and Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I take the floor for the first time, I wish to congratulate you on your chairmanship and assure you of my delegation's support.

I would like also to join previous speakers in expressing on behalf of the Italian government our deep condolences to the government and people of the Philippines for the humanitarian catastrophe that recently afflicted that Country.

Italy associates itself to the statement of the European Union. In addition, I wish to make some remarks in my national capacity.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of this Convention, which is an important milestone on the way to a more secure and peaceful world. Fully sharing its guiding principles and deeply involved in the promotion and implementation of the basic principles of International Humanitarian Law, Italy is a party not only to all protocols, amendments to the Convention and Amended Protocol II, but also to all the disarmament Conventions aimed at mitigating the humanitarian impacts of weapons as well as to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We firmly believe that universalization of CCW is an issue of paramount importance for our common goals and we strongly support the Accelerated Plan of Action on Universalization of the Convention and its Protocols.

Italy is deeply concerned about the humanitarian problems caused by explosive remnants of war and explosive devices that have indiscriminate effects. This week we had fruitful discussions on Amended Protocol II and Protocol V. One of the main pillars of both Protocols is international cooperation and assistance. Italy is concretely engaged in this field as certified by the resources devoted to mine action programmes, mostly focused on the clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance, including cluster munition remnants, and assistance to victims, financed with more than 10.2 million Euros over the last five years.

Mr. President,

This Meeting will allow Member States to take stock of the progress achieved so far in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and to consider additional types of weapons that are excessively injurious or have indiscriminate effects.

One recurrent topic in this respect, which has been discussed in this body for several years, is mines other than antipersonnel mines (MOTAPM). We are aware that there is still a gap between different positions on a legally binding Protocol regulating the use of this type of weapon. However, we are convinced that the humanitarian problems caused by persistent and undetectable MOTAPM deserve further efforts. In this spirit we are in favor of keeping this issue on our agenda.

Mr. President.

The CCW has the merit to address the humanitarian concerns posed by existing weapons but also to prevent the development of new types of weapons that would have been unacceptable under the basic International Humanitarian Law principles. I am referring specifically to Protocol I and Protocol IV.

Now a new potential threat is appearing on the horizon. I am referring specifically to the lethal autonomous weapons, the so-called killer robots. We are conscious that such weapons are not operational yet and that nobody can predict what their impact on IHL would be. However, we deem it appropriate that the international community starts an evaluation of this possible impact. We are convinced that the CCW is the most appropriate venue for such process.

In conclusion, Mr. President, the vitality of the CCW is key to the implementation and to further developments of IHL principles and rules. My delegation strongly believes that it is of paramount importance that the work

plan for 2014 focus on real challenges, both recurrent and new ones, which deserve great attention.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.
