



Amended Protocol II additional to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects

Meeting of Experts
Geneva, 7-8 April 2016

Statement by the Delegation of Italy

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your appointment, and assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

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

Mr. President,

Italy is deeply aware of the negative impacts of landmines on individuals and societies, and greatly committed towards their mitigation and elimination. As Parties to the Ottawa Convention, and having banned landmines even before it was finalized, we accepted to be bound by rules more stringent than those contained in Amended Protocol II. Yet, we believe that APII plays a fundamental role in guaranteeing respect for the rules and principles of International Humanitarian Law. Therefore, we reiterate our call to non-State Parties to accede to it, and to Parties to the original Protocol II to ratify its amended text, as soon as possible.

Italy shares the international community's deep concern about the growing use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Their indiscriminate effects are a threat to civilians, humanitarian workers, as well as peacekeeping personnel in armed conflict and post-conflict situations.

We are also aware that IED use is not limited to armed conflict situations, but represents a much wider – and worrisome – phenomenon. We support both preventative and remedial strategies aiming to counter this growing threat, elaborated both within and outside the CCW framework.

At the global level, Italy co-sponsored UNGA Resolution 70/46 on “Countering the threats posed by Improvised Explosive Devices”, which encourages States to develop national counter-IED policies and to support similar efforts regionally and internationally. We also co-sponsored Resolution 70/80 on “Assistance in mine action”, which urges all States and other relevant institutions to provide information and necessary technical, financial, and material assistance “to locate, remove, destroy and otherwise render ineffective (...) IEDs”.

We have greatly welcomed the work conducted in the framework of Protocol II on this issue since 2009. We stand ready to continue discussing the further possible contribution of this forum to tackling this urgent and serious threat, particularly with a view to the upcoming Review Conference of the CCW.

Thank you, Mr. President.