



ITALY

**Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and
Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction
3rd Review Conference (Maputo, 23-27 June 2014)
High Level Segment – Statement by ITALY**

Delivered by H. E. Ambassador Roberto Vellano

Mr President,

Italy aligns itself with the statement previously delivered by the European Union. I would like to make some additional remarks in our national capacity.

At the outset, I would like to express to you my sincere appreciation for the way the works of this Review Conference are being conducted. More than a simple evaluation of the status of the implementation of the Convention, the results of this Conference will allow us to identify the conditions for fostering mine action in all its aspects.

In our view, we are called to undertake a common renewed effort towards the implementation of the Convention, with a focus on the humanitarian aspects. We believe that a revision of the implementation machinery will help us get the maximum advantage from this effort. It will make the implementation process more efficient and functional.

Mr President,

Italy is not affected by the presence of landmines in its territory, nor by the presence of cluster munitions remnants or any kind of unexploded ordnance. Yet, we do understand the terrible impact these weapons have on the daily lives of so many people and communities around the world.

Before the ratification of the Convention, Italy decided to tackle the humanitarian problems caused by antipersonnel landmines as a matter of priority, through the implementation of concrete actions. Back in October 1997, a very advanced national law – more binding than the Convention itself, which Italy would sign two months later – was adopted. This led to the destruction of the existing stockpiles well in advance of the deadline set by the Convention, and to the

immediate allocation of significant resources to mine action, both on a bilateral basis and within the European Union framework.

Mr. President,

This year 2014 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. In this period, significant progress has been made at international level in the field of stockpiles destruction, mine clearance and victim assistance, but further advancements are necessary. Although the Convention has become a milestone in the international humanitarian law, the number of States that are not party to it remains too high and creates unacceptable grey zones. Universalization, therefore, constitutes one of the biggest challenges we have to face.

On the other hand, we must be vigilant, in a firm but pragmatic way, on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. We can understand that, under very particular circumstances, technical difficulties can delay the fulfilment of some obligations on stockpile destruction and mine clearance. These difficulties should not, however, become a justification for the indefinite perpetuation of such an exceptional situation. We call on those States Parties that are, or will be, in this position to show a strong determination to overcome these obstacles, and to ensure as soon as possible their full compliance with the Convention.

Mr President,

As I said at the beginning, Italy believes that the humanitarian concerns still require renewed efforts. The needs of the victims, whose number unfortunately increases day by day, are far from being fully satisfied. We are pleased that the Maputo Action Plan pays great attention to this aspect and we are in favour of all the measures contained therein.

Being a Party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Italy highly appreciates that the Maputo Action Plan makes a specific reference to the obligation that assistance to mine victims be part of broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks related to the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as to initiatives in the sectors of health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction.

Finally, I would like to assure that, as long as there will be even one single victim, Italy will be fully committed to cooperating and providing assistance to States affected by the presence of landmines, cluster munitions remnants and unexploded ordnance.

Thank you Mr President.