



Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War 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

Tenth Conference
Geneva, 29 August 2016

**Statement by Palma D'Ambrosio
Deputy-Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament
General exchange of views**

Mr. President,

It is a pleasure to see you again presiding over our work. Please remain assured of my delegation's continued and full support and cooperation.

Let me also congratulate the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Bahrain on recently becoming States Parties to the CCW and its protocols, including Protocol V, and Montenegro and Lesotho for acceding to Protocol V.

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

Mr. President,

Italy remains deeply concerned by the humanitarian impacts of Explosive Remnants of War. We consider Protocol V as a key instrument for the mitigation of such effects. Its universalization, therefore, remains an urgent imperative.

In the framework of Protocol V implementation, we consider international assistance and cooperation particularly important. Since 2001, we have allocated close to 50m EUR to mine action programmes, focusing on clearance, stockpile destruction and assistance to victims. Recipients have included Afghanistan, Bosnia, Colombia, Gaza, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, and Somalia.

Italian Mine Action targets any explosive remnant of war, including landmines, cluster munitions and Improvised Explosive Devices. It also places particular importance on victim assistance, which we understand comprehensively. Victims assistance is targeted at ERW survivors and other people with disabilities; it focuses on short-term psycho-physical rehabilitation as well as on long-term economic reintegration and social protection; it includes mine-risk education as a key component of prevention.

The management of munitions sites is another fundamental area of work for Protocol V. The securing of stored munitions is of primary importance for the safety of military personnel operating on site, as well as of nearby civilian populations and installations. The adoption of practical safety measures and standards should be accompanied by awareness-raising activities

focusing on the risks of unplanned explosions in munitions sites and of the diversion of munitions.

Mr. President,

We welcome the reports submitted by the Coordinators and yourself on Generic Preventive Measures, Cooperation and Assistance, Victim Assistance, and National Reporting, and support their concluding recommendations. We are convinced that, at the upcoming CCW Review Conference, this extensive work will be an excellent basis to outline the way forward for the next review cycle in the framework of Protocol V.

Thank you, Mr. President
