



**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**

18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties  
Geneva, 30 August 2016

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

Mr. President,

I would like to congratulate you once again on your appointment as President of the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the High Contracting to Amended Protocol II of the CCW, and to thank you for your able guidance of our work.

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

Mr. President,

Amended Protocol II plays a fundamental role in guaranteeing respect for the rules and principles of International Humanitarian Law, particularly in mitigating the impacts of landmines. Italy, therefore, continues to support its full implementation and universalization.

We share the deep concern of the international community at the growing use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), which pose serious security threats to civilians, humanitarian workers and peacekeeping personnel in international and non-international conflicts, as well as in non-conflict settings.

Both preventative and remedial strategies must be pursued to counter such a threat, within and outside the CCW framework.

We believe that APII has given a useful contribution in this regard, by allowing productive information exchanges on the characteristics of the IED problem and on the measures that could put in place to counter IED use and pernicious effects.

In this connection, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to France and Moldova for their efforts and engagement in guiding our discussions on this issue. We welcome their report and recommendations, in particular relating to the continuation of information exchanges, on a voluntary basis, on national measures, best practices and lessons learned.

We also support continuing discussions on a possible database, portal or platform aiming to facilitate the voluntary sharing of information on the diversion and illicit use of IEDs and materials that can be used for IEDs.

Finally, we endorse the proposed draft Declaration on IEDs, and hope that the Review Conference of the CCW will adopt it as it currently stands.

Resolution 70/46 adopted by the General Assembly in 2015 recognizes that action in multiple fora and at multiple levels is necessary to address the problem of IEDs. Therefore, we trust that the Review Conference will set the basis for continued work on this issue in the framework of APII.

Thank you, Mr. President