



**Sixth Meeting of the States Parties of the  
Convention on Cluster Munitions**  
Geneva, 5-7 September 2016

Statement by H. E. Ambassador Vinicio Mati  
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament

*Universalization*

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment and to thank you, your team and the Implementation Support Unit for effectively guiding our preparations for this meeting. I can assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. President,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is an important milestone on the way to a more secure and peaceful world. With its overarching goal of putting an end to the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions, the Convention has written a new, fundamental chapter of International Humanitarian Law. Italy has supported the CCM process from the start, and is fully engaged in implementing its provisions, both nationally and internationally.

We are convinced that universal membership to the Convention is a central element in effective implementation. If we want to rid the world of the terrible scourge of cluster munitions, we need the highest possible number of States united towards the same goal.

We are pleased that four States have joined the Convention since the first Review Conference of 2015, and warmly welcome them. At the same time, we are concerned by the conclusion in the Geneva Progress Report that the pace of universalization has slowed down. We must renew our commitment toward the CCM, and do our utmost to reach out to States not party to facilitate their adhesion to this process.

In this regard, we continue to support the actions put in place by the Presidency and the Coordinators on universalization towards signatory States and States not party. We also support the draft political declaration that we will discuss during the meeting, and hope that we will be able to adopt it by consensus.

Thank you, Mr. President