



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

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

General exchange of views

Madam 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.

Madam President,

Amended Protocol II plays a fundamental role in guaranteeing respect for the rules and principles of International Humanitarian Law. 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. In this regard, we warmly welcome the recent accessions to the CCW and APII by Afghanistan and Lebanon.

Italy has a solid history of assistance in mine action, for which it created a dedicated fund in 2001. Our assistance programmes target any kind of explosives remnants of war and focus on clearance, stockpile destruction and victim assistance. Through the Fund, Italy has allocated close to 50m EUR to mine action programmes, focusing on clearance, stockpile destruction and assistance to victims. Only in 2017, recipients included Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia, DRC, Iraq, Sudan, and Ukraine, for an overall amount of financial assistance of more than 3m EUR.

We share the deep concern of the international community at the growing use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and at the serious security threats to civilians, humanitarian workers and peacekeeping personnel.

We have greatly welcomed the work conducted in the framework of Protocol II on this issue since 2009 and support further engagement on the issue in the CCW framework.

Finally, Madam President, we welcome that most APII Parties have submitted their national report at least once since their ratification, but note that participation in this mechanism is inconsistent. Given the value of national reporting in building trust and allowing to measure progress in implementation, we call on all Parties to participate in this highly beneficial exercise.

Thank you, Madam President

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