



**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**

Improvised explosive devices (IEDs)

[Mr Co-facilitator],

Italy shares 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.

According to the think tank Action on Armed Violence, there have been 7,223 IED incidents between 2011 and 2016, which have caused almost 110,000 deaths and injuries, the large majority of which are civilian.

The use of IEDs, particularly by non-state armed groups, reaches dramatic levels in specific States and regions, but has concerned in the past five years close to half of the UN Membership.

Both preventative and remedial strategies must be pursued to counter such a threat, at national and international levels, within and outside the CCW framework. Such strategies include the establishment of appropriate regulatory frameworks for the production and transfer of commercially-produced precursor materials; of rules and procedures relating to the safe management of military munition stockpiles and the destruction of surplus munitions and ERWs; awareness-raising of retailers on the risks of precursor abuse; and inter-agency cooperation, particularly for intelligence gathering.

The need for such action in multiple fora and at multiple levels was recognized in the first UNGA resolution on “countering the threat posed by IEDs” of 2015, A/RES/70/46, and in the subsequent resolutions on the same topic, all of which Italy co-sponsored.

[Mr Co-facilitator],

At the domestic level, Italy has set up the necessary regulatory framework for the control of commercial explosives and dual-use goods, which is in line with relevant European Union legislation.

Standardized procedures for munitions sites management are also established by national laws, and detailed through regulations by each Service of our Armed Forces, which also take into account the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. Such procedures include provisions on regular safety and security checks, access rules by personnel and registration, munitions records and inspections.

Safety and security inspections of munition sites are usually performed once a year. Checks to identify the possible degradation of munitions are also conducted yearly, and degraded munitions are decommissioned through a National Defense Company.

Finally, Italy has established a C-IED Center of Excellence of the Italian Armed Forces to provide training to national military and police units. In addition, the Centre has a wide portfolio of targeted cooperation projects with partner Countries - such as Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, and Vietnam.

At the international level, Italy is a Party to all instruments relevant for the IED issue, including Amended Protocol II and Protocol V of the CCW, the APMBC, the CCM and the Arms Trade Treaty. We attach great value to the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and the International Tracing Instrument. Finally, Italy is also a Party to the Convention against Terrorist Bombings and the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection. We continue to support the full implementation and universalization of all these instruments.

As one of the main donors in Mine Action, we share the Secretary-General report's view that activities under humanitarian mine action apply as much to IEDs arising from conflict as they do to other explosive remnants of war.

Thank you.