



**The 2017 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on
Certain Conventional Weapons
(Geneva, 22-24 November 2017)**

**Statement by Ambassador Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

General exchange of views

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me join the previous delegations in congratulating you on your appointment, and in assuring you of Italy's full support for a productive meeting.

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

Mr. President,

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its annexed Protocols are fundamental instruments for creating and promoting International Humanitarian Law.

Universal membership in the Convention and its Protocols is a key goal that should continue to be strongly supported. We welcome the recent accessions of Afghanistan and Lebanon and call upon States not yet party to ratify or accede to the Convention and its Protocols as soon as possible.

Transparency and the exchange of information are also central to the achievement of the goals of the Convention, as they allow taking stock of progress in implementation, identifying related gaps and challenges, and building mutual confidence. For this reason, we continue to encourage the timely submission of annual national compliance reports.

Italy continues to be deeply concerned about the humanitarian impacts of Explosive Remnants of War and explosive devices with indiscriminate effects and, for this reason, is committed to confirming its long and solid history of concrete engagement in international cooperation and assistance in this area.

Since 2001, Italy has allocated close to 50m EUR to mine action programmes, focusing on clearance, stockpile destruction and assistance to victims. In 2017, recipients have included Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia, DRC, Iraq, Sudan, and Ukraine, for an overall amount of financial assistance of more than 3m EUR.

Mr. President,

We share the deep concern of the international community at the growing use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and welcome continued engagement with this issue in the framework of Amended Protocol II.

Italy has always believed that the unique composition of the CCW, and its openness to the active contribution of specialized institutions and civil society organizations, make it the right forum to address current and emerging issues relating to weapons development and use, including the issue of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.

Therefore, we welcomed the conclusions and recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS under the able chairmanship of Amb. Gill.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to thank you for your Report and annexed proposals to address the financial situation of the Convention and its Protocols.

Italy has been actively involved in the discussions on the financial problems faced by the disarmament conventions from the start, and supports the joint identification of measures able to both make contribution processes more straightforward and efficient from an administrative point of view, and to encourage and help States Parties to abide by their financial obligations.

Thank you Mr. President.
