



**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**

Group of Experts  
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**Statement by Ambassador Gianfranco Incarnato  
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

**Improvised explosive devices (IEDs)**

Mr. Coordinator, Madam Co-Coordinator,

Let me start by thanking you for all your work to prepare for this meeting and guide our discussions towards a concrete outcome.

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

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.

As well as being used against legitimate military targets, IEDs are frequently used in attacks deliberately targeting large numbers of civilians. Whatever the form they take - they may be remotely detonated, use a timer, or activated by the attacker in the form of a suicide attack - IEDs are responsible for huge numbers of civilian casualties each year.

Let me mention a few data from the latest IED Monitor published by the think tank Action on Armed Violence. In the last six years, the numbers of civilians killed or injured by suicide attacks have consistently increased, reaching 9,680 harmed in 2016. This was 5% more than in 2015, and 90% more than in 2011. Also in the last six years, the harm caused by IEDs has outweighed the civilian harm caused by all other weapon types combined. When IEDs were used in populated areas, 91% of casualties were civilians.

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”, number 70/46 of 2015, and the report of the UN Secretary General adopted pursuant to that resolution translates this evidence into concrete recommendations. The same conclusion is contained in the subsequent resolutions on the same topic, which were all co-sponsored by Italy.

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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. 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.

Italian Armed Forces operating abroad conduct IED clearing operations, as well as training and capacity building of local authorities.

Finally, as a State Party to the APMBC, CCM and Protocol V of the CCW, and one of the main donors in the Mine Action sector, we fully share the recommendation, embodied in the report of the Secretary General, that activities under humanitarian mine action, such as clearance, victim assistance, risk education and stockpile management, apply as much to IEDs arising from conflict as they do to other explosive remnants of war. This belief guides the decisions taken by the competent Italian Authorities when deliberating on the financing of humanitarian demining projects.

Thank you.