



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 HE Amb. Gianfranco Incarnato
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

Improvised explosive devices (IEDs)

Mr. President,

Italy shares the deep concern of the international community at the growing use and impact of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), which pose serious threats to civilians, humanitarian workers and peacekeeping personnel in conflict afflicted and post-conflict areas.

According to the think tank Action on Armed Violence, there were 7,223 IED incidents between 2011 and 2016, causing almost 110,000 deaths and injuries, the large majority of which were civilians. In the last seven years, the numbers of civilians killed or injured by suicide attacks have consistently increased, reaching 11,791 harmed in 2017.

This data focuses on the immediate and short-term impact of IEDs. Their reverberating effects, however, such as displacement of populations, destruction of infrastructure, ongoing psychological suffering and economic deprivation, are long-lasting.

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

Against the backdrop of this increasing and global threat, both preventative and remedial strategies must be pursued, at national and international levels, within and outside the CCW framework. These 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 various levels has been recognized in successive UNGA resolutions on “Countering the threat posed by IEDs”, all of which Italy co-sponsored. We welcome the report presented by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 71/72, which translates this need into concrete recommendations.

Mr. President,

At the domestic level, Italy has set up the necessary regulatory frameworks for the control of commercial explosives and dual-use goods, in line with relevant European Union legislation. These provide for strict conditions for the purchase, retention, transfer, and use of commercial and military explosives, detonators, and specified lists of precursors. Other provisions relate to registration of relevant companies, issuing of licenses and recording.

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.

C-IED efforts are addressed as a collective effort within the Italian Defense Organization, with the counter-IED approach as a common staff responsibility, supported by qualified personnel. In addition, we established a Joint National C-IED Center of Excellence (COE) in order to: harmonize all C-IED initiatives; provide a unique and joint training center within the Italian Defense and the Homeland Security Forces for all the C-IED related trainings; to contribute in C-IED related Concept and Doctrine developments at all levels; to give technical advice to Higher Commands and General Staff(s). The Center also 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 are also party to the Convention against Terrorist Bombings and the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, and attach great value to the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and the International Tracing Instrument. We continue to support the full implementation and universalization of all these instruments.

Italy currently takes part in working groups at the European Commission for the development of harmonized standards in the explosives industry and the pyrotechnics of explosives precursors. We are also actively involved in customs co-operation to control the traffic of strategic materials, dual-use goods, and WMD proliferation. Finally, the Italian Armed Forces operating abroad conduct IED clearing operations, as well as training and capacity building of local authorities.

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 Secretary-General's recommendation that humanitarian mine action activities such as clearance, victim assistance, risk education and stockpile management, should apply as much to IEDs arising from conflict as they do to other explosive remnants of war. This conviction guides the decisions taken by the competent Italian Authorities when deliberating on the financing of mine action projects.

Thank you, Mr. President