



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

General exchange of views

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your appointment as President of the Twentieth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, and assure you of our 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.

Mr. 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.

We also 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.

Italy attaches utmost importance to assistance and cooperation in mine action. Since 2001, we have devoted close to 55m EUR to Mine Action programmes, with a particular focus on clearance, stockpile destruction, risk education, and victim assistance. In 2017, recipients have included Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Gaza, Libya, Somalia and Sudan, for an overall amount of more than 3 million euros. For 2018, we have allocated a total of 3,7 million euros to mine action programmes.

We share the deep concern of the international community at the growing use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and at the serious security threats they pose to civilians, humanitarian workers and peacekeeping personnel. IEDs are frequently used in attacks deliberately targeting large numbers of civilians and are responsible for huge numbers of casualties each year.

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

Mr. President,

Since Amended Protocol II is the only IHL instrument which explicitly addresses the use of mines other than anti-personnel mines (MOTAPM), let me take this opportunity to briefly address the matter from our perspective. Italy continues to be concerned at the humanitarian impact and the long-term consequences arising from the indiscriminate use of these weapons.

For Italy, the point of departure in this discussion remains the need to ensure that any weapon that is not prohibited is used in conformity with the rules and principles of international humanitarian law, particularly relating to discrimination, proportionality, and necessary precautions. In our view, in order to prevent and reduce the humanitarian impact of MOTAPM, it is necessary to restrict their use and to include a number of precautions reflected in Amended Protocol II and its Technical Annex in national military doctrines and plans. These measures are integrated into the Italian Forces' practice, and are meant not only to decrease the possible harm to civilians but also to facilitate clearance activities at the end of hostilities, and to revert decontaminated territories to their social and economic use.

We believe this is an important issue which deserves further discussion and should remain on the agenda of Amended Protocol II.

Finally, Mr. President, we welcome your idea to engage in more focused discussions and information sharing on national measures and practices relating to specific articles of Amended Protocol II. This should allow for in-depth exchanges more open to expert-level input, with a view to promoting enhanced implementation of this instrument.

Thank you, Mr. President