



**The 2018 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain
Conventional Weapons
(Geneva, 21-23 November 2018)**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Gianfranco Incarnato
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

Other Matters (MOTAPM)

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for your report on the informal consultation held in 2018 on Mines other than anti-personnel mines (MOTAPM). We believe they represented a very useful opportunity to shed further light on the national approaches to MOTAPM use and to modalities to prevent and reduce their possible humanitarian and development impacts.

Italy has actively participated into these consultations, mindful of the importance of deepening our understanding of the matter and addressing the existing difference of views.

Consequently, we welcome the opportunity that we have today to address MOTAPM under this Agenda item.

For Italy, it is necessary to start the discussion on MOTAPM reiterating the need to ensure that any weapon that is not prohibited is used in conformity with the rules and principles of international humanitarian law, in particular discrimination, proportionality, and precautions.

We believe that, first of all, MOTAPM use should be restricted and aimed at specific goals relating to reducing the mobility of adverse parties' heavy military vehicles and of hindering enemy logistical movements. Any other use engenders security and safety risks to communities and territories concerned by military operations and should be avoided.

Mr. President,

Military doctrines and plans should also foresee a number of precautions that are reflected in Amended Protocol II of the CCW and its Technical Annex. These, which are integrated into the Italian Forces' practice, relate to the clear marking of minefields and mined areas with warning signs and to the recording of the emplacement of the devices.

These measures are intended not only to decrease the possible harm to civilians, but also to facilitate clearance activities at the end of hostilities and the cooperation with local authorities for the process of reverting decontaminated territories to their social and economic use. In this regard,

using mines with sufficient metal content to ensure detectability with ordinary equipment – a characteristic of all standard-issue MOTAPM of the Italian armed forces – is fundamental.

The inclusion of self-neutralization mechanisms might further decrease the potential humanitarian impacts of MOTAPM. However, the reliability of such mechanisms cannot be always fully guaranteed. Therefore, self-neutralization technologies should be considered together with the other precautionary measures outlined so far. Information and data sharing with local authorities and peace operation contingents, as well as mine risk education campaigns – targeting in particular the most vulnerable segments of the population – further decrease the security risks to communities in conflict areas.

Finally, we believe MOTAPM is an important issues meriting further discussion in the CCW framework. Therefore, we welcome the decision of the High Contracting Parties of Amended Protocol II to explore, in the context of informal consultations, good practices in the implementation of the Protocol with respect to MOTAPM, in particular with regard to the protection of civilians.
