



**Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War 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**

Twelfth Conference  
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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. Vice President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your appointment 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. Vice President,

Italy remains deeply concerned by the humanitarian impacts of Explosive Remnants of War and actively engaged in their mitigation. We welcome ongoing work in the framework of Protocol V and support efforts to enhance its implementation and promote its universalization. We also attach great importance to national reporting, which serves many useful purposes, including building confidence and allowing us to understand progress made in implementing the Protocol. We therefore encourage all High Contracting Parties to fulfil their reporting obligations in a timely and effective manner.

Mr. Vice President,

Italy continues to support States Parties' implementation of Protocol V through its long-standing investment in international cooperation and assistance.

Our contribution to ERW-related activities is channeled through a dedicated Trust Fund for Humanitarian Demining, which finances programmes targeting landmines, IEDs and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions. Since the establishment of the Fund in 2001, we have devoted close to 55m EUR to Mine Action programmes, focusing 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 amount of assistance of more than 3 million euros. For 2018, we have allocated a total amount of 3,7 million euros to Mine Action.

We also provide support in the form of capacity-building, training and sharing of technical demining expertise. For instance, the Italian Armed Forces have been engaged in extensive

clearance of explosive remnants of war in Afghanistan and Lebanon. To counter all types of explosives devices, our Armed Forces rely on the support of a dedicated national Centre of Excellence, which has also been engaged in training and capacity building activities with third countries, such as Colombia and Vietnam. Further, in 2017, we started a coordination process in Iraq among the Italian Agency for Cooperation, our Embassy, the Italian Contingent, UNMAS and IKMAA (Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency) to carry out joint activities in capacity building for local partners, clearance, risk awareness and return of displaced persons to their communities.

Italy believes that victim assistance should be comprehensive, including both the psycho-physical rehabilitation of affected people and their economic reintegration and adequate social protection. We adopt an integrated approach to victim assistance, benefiting survivors, indirect victims and other persons with disabilities alike, on the basis of the principle of non-discrimination. We also deem it essential to include assistance to mine and other ERW victims in broader development, human rights and humanitarian programs, so that it can fully contribute to, and benefit from, efforts towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We have been particularly engaged in promoting gender- and diversity-responsive assistance, aiming to adequately address the different needs of different beneficiaries. Italy supported the development of an operational guidance by the Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP), in collaboration with Humanity and Inclusion, aiming to disseminate good practices for gender and diversity-sensitive victim assistance among stakeholders in the mine action and broader disability sectors.

Our assistance programmes rely on partnerships with the UN, other international and regional organizations, civil society, and survivor representatives. We have established a long-term and particularly fruitful cooperation with the ICRC, the United Nations Mine Action Service, the GICHD and the Italian Section of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. We are convinced that such partnerships must be developed and strengthened among States and all the relevant stakeholders, maximizing the contribution and impact of all available expertise and knowledge.

Mr. Vice President,

The management of munitions sites is another fundamental area of work for Protocol V. Securing stored munitions is of primary importance for the safety of military personnel operating on site, as well as of nearby civilian populations and installations. We believe that the adoption of practical safety measures and standards should be accompanied by awareness-raising activities focusing on the risks of unplanned explosions in munitions sites and of the diversion of munitions. In Italy, standardized procedures for munitions sites management are 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.

Thank you, Mr. Vice President