



**First Review Conference
Of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
(Dubrovnik, 7-11 September 2015)
Financing Model for the ISU
Statement by Italy**

Madame President,

First of all, I would like to thank the Coordinators - The Netherlands and Lebanon - for the tireless efforts they have displayed in trying to find a solution to the issue of a financing model of the ISU, which has been until today a divisive one for the membership. The draft decision that we have in front of us is the result of a creative attempt to reach a compromise, as well as of the flexibility shown by many delegations in order to find a solution that has the chances to work.

Italy is particularly satisfied to see that its views concerning the need to develop and strengthen synergies between the ISU of the Cluster Munitions Convention and the ISU of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, as expressed in our statement during the High Level Political Segment and as reiterated also yesterday, have been taken in due consideration. It is our opinion that we have a window of opportunity to seize now, since the CCM ISU is in the initial stage of its activity, which could be therefore oriented towards the development of these synergies. Indeed, the idea of pooling structures and resources between the ISUs, or to have, in a future perspective, a joint Unit, deserves in our view serious consideration, and this in order to achieve not only a more efficient use of limited resources, but also – and above all - a more effective and comprehensive action in support of both Conventions' implementation.

Madame President,

Italy has striven in order to allow the newly established ISU to work effectively and perform the tasks assigned to it by the State Parties. Indeed, we have started to pay voluntary contributions to the Unit since last year, when prospects about its imminent establishment started to become concrete. This year, following the appointment of the ISU

Director, we have increased our contribution, and this was formally announced at the beginning of this week in a letter addressed to the Director of the GICHD.

In light of the actual provisions of the Conventions, voluntary contributions respond better to our internal financial and administrative rules. In our view, in no way they diminish the moral obligation we feel to provide the ISU with adequate funding, matching its needs. On the contrary, they make this obligation even stronger.

In this perspective, while joining the consensus in the text and reiterating our commitment to work in order to ensure sustainable and predictable funding for the ISU, we would like to state that we consider contributions under letter b, article 7 of the draft decision on the funding model as being fully voluntary in nature, and this means of the same nature of the contributions envisaged by letter c) of the same article.

This having said, let me congratulate again with you, Madame President, and with all the Distinguished Delegations who have attended this Review Conference, for the important achievements we have made. Among them, let me mention the adoption of the Political Declaration and of the Dubrovnik Action Plan. These highly valuable documents will guide our steps towards the successes that really matter and that are dear to all of us: zero victims from cluster munitions, full guarantee of the rights of the survivors, more and more contaminated land cleared, destruction of all stockpiles no later than the deadline fixed by the Convention.

Thank you Madame President.