



## **Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Geneva, 22-23 June 2015)**

### **Statement by Italy (23 June)**

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor, allow me to thank you for guiding our discussions during this intersessional meeting.

I also take this opportunity to convey our deepest appreciation to the President designate of the First CCM Review Conference, to all the Coordinators, and to the interim ISU for their efforts in putting together the draft Action Plan.

In our opinion, this document is a good basis for our discussions, leading to the final Action Plan that we will adopt in Dubrovnik. We appreciate that it is forward-looking, and that it has indicators and criteria allowing to measure progress.

Generally, however, we would prefer its final version to be simpler, not from the point of view of substance, but from that of structure. Currently, in our opinion, the draft contains too many paragraphs and subparagraphs, and would benefit from some consolidation of the text. More generally, we think that a structure closer to that of the Vientiane Action Plan would allow us to have an overall view of the way that actions and commitments have evolved towards the full implementation of the Convention.

It also seems to us that some of the suggested criteria are not indicators, but “actions” in themselves; these should be better formulated in order to allow for measuring progress.

In other words, we think that to have a stronger document, more clarity and coherence would be needed. My delegation stands ready to help in the joint effort to revise the draft.

As relates to the part of the DAP devoted to international cooperation and assistance, we have found it “unbalanced” compared to other sections of the text, which are longer and better articulated. We would suggest that references to this key issue, which can be found in other sections of the Draft Action Plan, could be moved here. In this way, we think that we could give a full and consolidated account of the different forms that international cooperation can take.

In the same section, we have taken note of the reference made to partnerships. However, we think that partnership is a cross-cutting issue and we would prefer to have it mentioned in a broader formulation, and possibly in a dedicated section, as in the Vientiane Action Plan, in order to fully acknowledge the invaluable contribution of international and regional organizations, as well as of civil society, to the implementation of the Convention.

Before concluding, Mr. President, allow me to remind that Italy remains committed to supporting affected States in the fields of clearance of cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance, and of victim assistance. Funds provided last year included support to activities in Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, and the Gaza Strip. I would also like to mention that, at the national level, the stockpile destruction process is further advancing, and will be completed within the current year.

Thank you.