



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

**Convention on Cluster Munitions
Second Preparatory Meeting of the Second Review Conference**

**Delivered by Mr. Tancredi Francese,
Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament**

Geneva, 4 September 2020

Mister President,

Let me renew our gratitude to you and your team – together with UNODA, the ISU and the Members of the Coordinating Committee – for the work you have conducted so far in preparation of the Review Conference, despite the current challenging situation.

We appreciate very much the draft of the **Lausanne Action Plan** you have submitted, building on the work we have done during the First Preparatory Meeting. We are currently reviewing the text, together with our experts in Capital, but we already think that both the good practices and the challenges emerged during the implementation of the Dubrovnik Action Plan have been duly taken into account. We believe that the draft represents an excellent basis for our final deliberations, in November.

As a **general comment**, we are of the view that the LAP should provide direct and effective guidance to the Member States, with a set of actions associated to specific indicators. In this regard, we believe that the indicators need to be streamlined, not to cause an excessive burden on the States and avoiding any possible risk of confusion in the next phase of implementation of the Convention. This could lead to an overall reduction of the indicators, retaining no more than one specific indicator per action or even looking at a simpler set of indicators per chapter.

Looking at the structure of actions and indicators in the LAP, we should also bear in mind that they represent a useful guideline for the States to follow, in their report obligations. This is particularly important when we look at the **sections devoted to Victim Assistance and to International Cooperation and Assistance**, because many States work on these issues also from the point of view of other Conventions or international instruments. We should look at the LAP more from the perspective of the affected States and make it as simple as possible, to be as efficient as possible, promoting synergies in these two important frameworks.

Mister President,

We appreciate very much the chapter on Victim Assistance, as it reiterates the long-term commitment of the State Parties for an aspect that lies at the core of humanitarian efforts.

We especially value the reference to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and we would like to **propose a specific action connected with art. 11 of the CRPD**, namely the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters. We believe that, in the current scenario, this issue is more relevant than ever.

I would like to recall that Italy, in its capacity as Chair of the Victim Assistance Committee of the Ottawa Convention and together with our fellow Members of the Committee (Chile, Sweden and Thailand), has promoted this year a panel on this issue. We have received many positive feedbacks so far, encouraging us to work in this direction.

This represents another example of how synergies can be built with other international instruments and have a positive impact on the implementation of the Convention.

Mister President,

In the path towards the Review Conference, we believe it is important to reiterate our political commitment for the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which ten years after its entry into force represents an important milestone on the way to a more secure and peaceful world.

This is a point we need to clearly state in the **Political Declaration**, together with the pivotal importance of the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law, both being promoted by the principles, the commitments and the actions contained in the Convention.

We believe the document you have prepared with the elements for a Political Declaration represents an excellent basis. We stand ready to support your work in this direction, renewing the Italian engagement in cooperating and providing assistance to States affected by the presence of cluster munitions remnants and unexploded ordnances.