



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction

4th Review Conference

Oslo, 29 November 2019

Statement on renewing the political commitment to the Convention delivered by HE Amb. Alberto Colella, Ambassador of Italy to Norway and Head of the Italian Delegation

Mister President,

Italy align itself with the statement of the European Union. I would like to make some additional remarks in our national capacity.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the way the work of this Review Conference has been prepared and conducted, resulting in more than a simple and formal evaluation of the status of the implementation of the Convention. This allows us to identify, here in Oslo, the conditions for fostering mine action in all its aspects.

In these days, we have been called to undertake a common renewed effort towards the implementation of the Convention, with a focus on the humanitarian aspects. We believe that a revision of the implementation machinery will help us to get the maximum advantage from our efforts. It will make the implementation process more efficient and functional.

Mister President,

Italy is not affected by the presence of landmines in its territory, nor by the presence of cluster munitions remnants or any kind of unexploded ordnance. Yet we do understand the terrible impact these weapons have on the daily lives of many people and communities around the world, and we are extremely concerned by their indiscriminate humanitarian and socio-economic impacts, especially on civilians.

As part of our long-standing commitment, a dedicated Trust Fund for Humanitarian Demining was set up by law in 2001 and since then Italy has devoted more than 58 million Euros to Mine Action programmes, with a particular focus on clearance, stockpile destruction, risk education and assistance to victims.

Mister President,

This year 2019 marks the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. In all these years, significant progress has been made but we do think further advancements are necessary. Although the Convention has become a milestone in the international humanitarian law, the number of States that are not party to it remains too high. Universalization, therefore, constitutes one of the biggest challenges we have to focus on.

On the other hand, we must be vigilant in a firm but pragmatic way on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. We can understand that, under very particular circumstances, technical difficulties can delay the fulfilment of some obligations on stockpile destruction and mine clearance. These difficulties should not become a justification for the indefinite perpetuation of such an exceptional situation. We call on those States Parties that are, or will be, in this position to show a strong determination to overcome the obstacles. From our part, we stand ready to support those States that face such obstacles. Mister President,

Italy believes that the humanitarian concerns still require renewed efforts. The needs of the victims, whose number unfortunately continuously increases day by day, are far from being fully satisfied. We are pleased that the Oslo Action Plan pays attention to this aspect and we are in favor of all the measures contained therein.

In order to be effective, our Action Plan has now to be implemented consistently and integrate with humanitarian action as a whole. It is essential that victims benefitting from assistance are included in broader development, human rights, and humanitarian programs, because for the victims this is an essential component of their path towards a better future.

Finally, I would like to assure that, as long as there will be even one single victim, Italy will certainly continue with its engagement in cooperating and providing assistance to landmine affected States, as well as to States affected by the presence of cluster munitions remnants and unexploded ordnance.

Thank you for your attention.