



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

Eight Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Geneva, 24 March 2023

Mister President,

At the outset, I would like to warmly congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and to commend you for organizing this Pledging Conference and for all the activities that you have already set up, together with the Coordinating Committee and the ISU. Let me also praise the German Government's deep commitment to this Convention as exemplified by the presence today of Ms Katja Keul, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office.

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. Let me add some remarks in my national capacity.

Mister President,

We have come a long way since the Convention was signed, in 1997, marking a historic step in addressing the serious humanitarian impacts of conventional weapons. We must be mindful of the great achievements it has enabled, but at the same time we must bear in mind the challenges that we still face.

Mine-action cannot stop and we continue looking at the Oslo Action Plan as a wise guide and a concrete step in the right direction, establishing a long but clear path for fostering mine action in all its aspects.

Bearing in mind this commitment, we are participating again in a more active way to the work of the Convention as a member of the Committee on Victims Assistance. We are proud to work with the other fellow Members and the community of experts on this particular issue, raising awareness on the current and more compelling challenges.

Mister President,

Italy remains deeply convinced of the fundamental role of the Convention. For us, supporting its work is more than a legal obligation; it is a long-standing commitment, as part of our comprehensive approach to mine action. This approach also looks at potential synergies with other Conventions, such as the Convention on cluster munitions (CCM) or the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

A dedicated Trust Fund for Humanitarian Demining was set up by law in 2001, providing for the allocation of resources to mine action projects relating to anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war. Since then, Italy has devoted approximately 80 million Euros to Mine Action programs.

Through the Fund, we have also contributed to support the ISU of the Convention since its establishment. We believe that the Unit has consistently provided effective assistance to all States Parties in implementing the Convention's provisions, providing technical advice, building capacity, and promoting universalization. Let me take this opportunity to commend the Director, Mr. Juan Carlos Ruan, and all the staff working at the ISU for their tireless commitment.

At the national level, the planning and budgeting process for Mine Action Activities in 2023 is still at the early stages. However, we are keen to keep our support for the ISU activities at the same level as it has been in recent years, and we will inform you accordingly as soon as our internal procedures are completed.

Thank you, Mister President.