



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

**Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons  
(Meeting of High Contracting Parties)**

*15 November 2023*

**Statement delivered by Mr Eugenio Poti  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to  
the Conference on Disarmament**

Chair,

I would like to confirm my Delegation's support and express our appreciation for your appointment as Chair of this meeting.

We also regret that, despite all your great efforts, we were not able to hold a formal meeting with relevant Rules of Procedure.

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. We would like to add some remarks in our national capacity.

Chair,

We have gone a long way since the signature and entry into force of the Convention.

The way we implement the CCW has direct effects and consequences on people's life, often the most vulnerable ones. This has dramatically emerged, once again, over the last few weeks.

Italy has signed and ratified not only all protocols, amendments to the Convention and Amended Protocol II, but we are also Party to all the disarmament Conventions aimed at mitigating the humanitarian impacts of weapons.

We are convinced that the CCW is a key instrument to protect human rights and ensure respect of International Humanitarian Law. My country has spared no effort over the last few years in supporting people and countries around the world that still have to deal with the effects of armed conflicts, ongoing as well as concluded.



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Over the last years we have dedicated growing attention to support those countries in need through several international assistance activities, focusing in particular on the removal of mines and other unexploded ordnance, including cluster munitions, the destruction of existing stocks and victim support. The humanitarian impact and indiscriminate effects of mines and other explosive devices is, once again, a matter of serious concern for us.

In this context, we deeply regret the repeated use of certain heinous weapons in areas of conflict, especially in the context of Russia's unjustified, illegal and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine.

One of the universally recognized credits of this Convention has been its capacity to keep pace with the times. New technologies play an increasing role also when it comes to armed conflicts, and we must therefore make sure to be able to update accordingly our disarmament tools. Artificial Intelligence in particular is likely to become a top priority over the next few years, as highlighted by the UN Secretary General himself in his "New Agenda for Peace", and we welcome the establishment of the UN High-Level Advisory Body on AI.

We are concerned about the recent developments of new autonomous weapons systems, be they lethal or not. This is indeed one of the main challenges we have to face over the next few years. By regulating these new types of weapon systems, we have the chance to show that we, in the disarmament community, are able to rise to the occasion and keep up with a fast-advancing technology, even before these new systems are fully developed.

We have welcomed the work of the GGE on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) and co-sponsored at this last UN First Committee the Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems Resolution tabled by Austria, and we support the continuation of this exercise.

We believe that a two-tier, ban-or-regulate approach is the best way forward. This approach is based on the recognition that autonomous weapons systems that cannot comply with IHL should be prohibited, whereas other autonomous weapons systems should be regulated.

In conclusion, we look forward to enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention, by promoting its universalization, supporting its implementation and, last but not least, contributing to make it more fit for the times we are living in.

Let me finally warmly welcome Singapore as a new CCW member and congratulate UK for the ongoing ratification of Protocol V.