



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

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

Geneva, 1 March 2022

Madame President,

At the outset, I would like to warmly congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Anti-Personnel Landmine 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.

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

Madame President,

We came a long way since the Convention entered into force, on this day 23 years ago, marking a historic step in addressing the serious humanitarian impacts of conventional weapons. Today we celebrate the great achievements it enabled, but at the same time we must bear in mind the challenges that we still need to face.

Even in the current difficult security landscape, 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, last year we offered to participate 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 issue, raising awareness on the current and more compelling challenges. Moreover, we are particularly glad to act as gender focal point, looking forward to foster this important horizontal dimension for the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan.

Madame President,

Italy remains deeply convinced of the important role of the Convention. For us, supporting its work is more than a legal obligation; it is a long-standing commitment, as a part of our comprehensive approach to mine action. This approach also looks at potential synergies with other Conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In this regard, we commend the ISU for facilitating the organization of a side event on inclusion in situations of risks, crises and humanitarian emergencies at the Global Disability Summit (GDS) which took place last February.

A dedicated Trust Fund for Humanitarian Demining was set up by law in 2001, allowing the allocation of resources to mine action projects relating to anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war. Since then, Italy has devoted more than 70 million Euros to Mine Action programs.

Through the Fund, we have also contributed to supporting 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 2022 is still at the early stages. However, we can already confirm that we will be able to contribute to supporting the ISU activities with an amount of 40.000 Euros.

Madame President,

In conclusion and since in your remarks you and UNODA referred to the financial situation of the Convention, I would like to use this opportunity to commend the previous Dutch Presidency for their work on this issue, last year. We regret that we were not able to reach an agreement, in the end, and we look forward to cooperating with you and to supporting your efforts to finally come to a resolution at the next Meeting of the States Parties.

Thank you, Madame President.