



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

5th Review Conference

International Cooperation and Assistance

Siem Reap, 27 November 2024

Mister President,

Thank you for having presented to us the provisions of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan in terms of international cooperation and assistance.

Ten years ago, during the Maputo Review Conference, we committed to achieving the ambitious goal of a world free of mines in 2025, a goal that still looms on the horizon. Today in Siem Reap we want to recommit to strengthening our efforts towards that horizon. International cooperation and assistance are important enablers which ensure progress in areas such as stockpile destruction, mine clearance, risk education and reduction, and victim assistance. Actions 40-45 and their respective indicators provide a clear roadmap for both donors and affected state on ways to empower partnerships and increase coordination in order to achieve meaningful results.

We have been proud to Chair in 2023-2024 the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) which coordinates at global level the humanitarian mine action programs, harmonizes priorities and increases donor support in the sector.

In Italy a dedicated 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.

In 2023 we supported activities for 8.5 million euros in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Mali, Ukraine, Syria and Somalia. Some of these Countries have been receiving our assistance for several years whereas others, such as Ukraine,

represent newly identified areas of intervention. Following the illegal, unprovoked and unjustified aggression by the Russian Federation, Ukraine is in fact one of the most contaminated countries in the world. Demining in Ukraine must be a top priority of the international community and Italy is ready to contribute to demining efforts in the country also in the future.

Our projects have a holistic approach including clearance, risk education and assistance to victims, paying particular attention to the social-economic dimension of mine action.

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) has been a long standing partner of Italy for the implementation of activities related to Explosive Ordnance Risk Education-EORE; the strengthening of the Convention ISU; and more broadly humanitarian demining with a special focus on sustainable development, gender and diversity.

Over the course of the last year, Italy supported the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Mali and Somalia through the so called “Special Call for Demining and Disability” which aims at guaranteeing and enhancing the access to high quality services and care for people with disabilities, including those living in remote areas. In Iraq and Syria, we supported the work the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) on mine clearance, ordnance disposal and enhancement of national demining strategies.

Mister President,

We strengthen multilateralism by empowering collaborations with the UN, other international and regional organizations, civil society and survivors’ organizations. We consider this an effective way to fully implement the Convention, maximizing the contribution and impact of all the available expertise and knowledge.

Before concluding, Mr. President, I would like to stress that the notions of “national ownership” and “donor coordination” are two key tenets of Italian Cooperation, including in humanitarian demining. Therefore, we greatly value initiatives such as the Country Coalition as well as the Individualized Approach.

Italy stands ready to contribute to all these efforts, enhancing the effectiveness of international assistance through greater coordination among all relevant stakeholders at local and international level.

Thank you, Mister President.