



**Delegation of Italy to
the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva**

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

5th Review Conference

Statement on renewing the political commitment to the Convention

delivered by H.E. Amb. Paolo Dionisi,

Ambassador of Italy to Thailand and Head of the Italian Delegation

Siem Reap, 29 November 2024

Mister President,

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

We gather today in Siem Reap at a time of continued presence and large-scale use in new and protracted conflicts of anti-personnel mines, heinous weapons that have a profound impact on the lives of thousands. Entire communities face deadly injuries and long lasting disabilities, psychological traumas and economic and social disruption. Urban and agricultural areas are deprived of crucial infrastructures providing energy, water, healthcare and education. Families with women, children and elderly people, the most vulnerable, are forced to migrate abandoning their roots and heritage.

Mister President,

We have come a long way since the Convention was signed, in 1997, marking a historic step in addressing the humanitarian impact of anti-personnel mines. We must be mindful of the great achievements it has enabled, at the same time bearing in mind the challenges we are still facing. We have been called on today to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the goals and objectives of this Convention that does not operate in a vacuum.

Many are the synergies, as underlined in the Political Declaration, with other existing instruments and objectives, primarily the UNSG Sustainable Development Goals. Completion of mine clearance ensures in fact the return of affected communities to economic and social life, education and health care. And we cannot decouple these goals from environmental protection and climate change. We appreciate the comprehensive work conducted by civil society and academia on the need to take climate consideration into account and adopt environmentally-sound practices while implementing the Convention and we support the inclusion of dedicated language in the Declaration.

Although the Convention has become a milestone in 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. We reiterate our call to States not yet party to join the Convention, and to those that are still facing obstacles in fulfilling its provisions to spare no effort to overcome them.

Italy attaches great importance to assisting victims, their families and communities both in the short-term goal of physical rehabilitation, and in the long-term one of psychological support, risk education, social and economic reintegration. It is essential that victims benefitting from assistance are included in broader development, human rights, and humanitarian programs. These, in addition, need to be implemented according to the principle of non-discrimination, as well as take into account gender and diversity considerations, so as to adequately address the different needs of diverse beneficiaries. These have been core principles of Italy's Development Cooperation since the establishment of a dedicated Fund for humanitarian demining in 2001 and we appreciate the strong relevant language in the text of the Declaration.

The protection of human life and human dignity is at the core of the Ottawa Convention. You can be ensured, Mr. President, that Italy is fully committed to the achievement of a mine-free world that should not remain a political aspiration but a goal within reach to which the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan and Political Declaration bring us closer.

Thank you, Mr. President.