



**Statement delivered by
Ambassador Leonardo Bencini,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament
to the First Committee of the 80th UN General Assembly
Cluster IV – Conventional weapons**

24 October 2025

Chair,

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

Italy firmly supports and upholds all international instruments restricting or prohibiting the use of conventional weapons which are not, or cannot be used, in compliance with International Humanitarian Law.

Nearly a year ago in Siem Reap, we renewed our support for the principles and objectives of the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines through the Political Declaration and Action Plan. We now look forward to advancing the goals of the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions at its Review Conference next year in Vientiane. Italy has been glad to sit in the Coordinating Committee of the CCM in 2023-2025, being co-coordinator for clearance. As these two conventions face unprecedented challenges, we renew our call for their universalization.

We are concerned by the growing use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), including by non-State actors, and for the evolving trends in the

acquisition of technologies and 'know-how' used to assemble and deploy improvised conventional weapons.

Addressing the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA) remains a pressing challenge and we look forward to renewing our commitment to the goals and principles of the Political Declaration next month in San José.

Italy supports efforts towards an effective implementation of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). We have actively engaged within the GGE on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). As the end of the group's mandate draws near, we consider its work to be a good basis for future negotiations. In our view the future instrument should be a protocol to the CCW, clearly setting out prohibitions and regulations on the development and use of these weapons systems.

At the 11th Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Geneva in August 2025, we supported the proposal to develop a long-term ATT strategy to be adopted next year. Building on the 2024 Political Declaration, we should now define priorities and concrete actions. In this spirit, Italy is pleased to have joined the new "Friends of the ATT" initiative as an informal platform for dialogue and cooperation.

Thank you, Chair.