



Permanent Mission of Italy to
the Conference on Disarmament

Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)
Intersessional Meetings
Victim Assistance

17 June 2026

Chair,

At the outset, I would like to thank you and the members of the Committee on Victim Assistance for your valuable efforts in this endeavor.

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Allow me to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

We endorse the comprehensive approach set out in the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan, underscoring the need to mainstream victim assistance within national policies, plans, budgets, and legal frameworks, consistent with the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. The emergence of victim assistance as a core principle of humanitarian disarmament is not only the result of the APMBC, but also reflects synergies with other relevant instruments, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, with all three conventions mutually reinforcing their implementation mechanisms.

Providing assistance to victims is more essential than ever, as growing conflicts continue to affect millions of people living in contaminated areas. Mine action remains a core component of Italy's humanitarian assistance. In recent years, despite a challenging financial context, Italy has maintained a steady level of funding at around €8.5 million per year. Victim assistance is crucial in enabling survivors to access

essential services, including emergency care, rehabilitation, and educational or vocational training, thereby supporting the reintegration of explosive ordnance (EO) victims and their families into society. When victim assistance programmes incorporate gender-sensitive approaches, mine action can also contribute to reducing inequalities by promoting equitable access to healthcare, psychosocial support, and socioeconomic reintegration opportunities. Our projects adopt a holistic approach, integrating gender and diversity considerations, with particular attention to initiatives addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, including persons with disabilities.

In Palestine, we support Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), as well as assessment and clearance activities, aimed at reducing EO-related threats and strengthening a safe humanitarian response, benefiting both the Palestinian population and humanitarian workers in Gaza and the West Bank.

In Afghanistan, Mali, and Somalia, we have worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross to support activities in risk education, contamination mapping, specialized healthcare, and socioeconomic inclusion for people with disabilities, particularly victims of landmines and other unexploded ordnance. We also support orthopedic and physical rehabilitation centres, implementing strategies to develop the rehabilitation sector and expand the number of qualified professionals.

In Syria, we supported UNMAS in reducing risks posed by explosive devices, with the aim of facilitating the restoration of agricultural areas, promoting urban regeneration, and improving living conditions, as well as enabling the safe return of displaced communities. We look forward to participating in the Syria Mine Action Conference next week.

We recognize that this sector remains severely underfunded. Greater efforts are needed to make rehabilitation technologies more accessible and affordable by encouraging open markets, information sharing, and cooperation with universities and private companies. Italy welcomes further dialogue on innovative financing mechanisms, also through tailored workshops.

The Italian Cooperation will continue to support victim assistance activities and partnerships in the years ahead.

Thank you, Chair, for allowing us to share our experience and reaffirm our commitment to this important humanitarian endeavor.