



**Permanent Mission of Italy to
the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva**

**Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)
Intersessional Meetings
*International Cooperation and Assistance***

15 June 2026

Madam Chair,

At the outset, I would like to join other delegations in expressing our appreciation for the work carried out by you and the other members of the Committee on the Enhancement of International Cooperation and Assistance throughout the year.

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

Humanitarian mine action enables people to live in safety and dignity and lays the groundwork for reconstruction, stabilization, post-conflict peacebuilding, and sustainable development. International cooperation and assistance are essential components of mine action. Under the Pact for the Future, we committed to promoting all relevant aspects of mine action. These efforts should be guided by the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan, which provides a clear roadmap for the coming years for both donors and affected States, outlining ways to strengthen partnerships and improve coordination, with a renewed emphasis on the sustainability of national capacities and the principle of localization. We also continue to look with interest at innovative financing mechanisms with the potential to mobilize additional resources and enhance outcomes for communities.

In 2001, Italy established a dedicated Fund for Humanitarian Demining, directing support not only to immediate priorities such as clearance and stockpile destruction, but also to longer-term efforts including victim assistance and raising awareness of the dangers posed by explosive remnants of war (ERW). Since its creation, more than 100 million euros have been allocated to mine action programs. As we finalize our assistance programs for 2026, we are pleased to confirm our contribution to the Fund in line with previous years.

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) have long been Italy's partners in implementing projects characterized by a holistic approach.

In 2025, we supported projects in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Libya, Mali, Palestine, Somalia, Syria, and Ukraine. Most of our efforts focused on demining activities in Ukraine. These activities, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), aim to strengthen the Ukrainian Government's technical and operational capabilities in humanitarian demining. This includes the institutionalization of capacities to deploy canine units for the technical reconnaissance of contaminated land, as well as strengthening the maintenance and operational capacity of mechanical demining equipment. Following Russia's full-scale war of aggression, Ukraine is now one of the most mine-contaminated countries in the world.

We are strengthening multilateralism by fostering collaboration with the United Nations, other international and regional organizations, civil society, and survivors' organizations. In particular, the participation of victims makes decisions more legitimate and impactful. The success of mine action also depends on knowledge transfer, shared capacities, and the exchange of lessons learned. In this regard, I would like to highlight the work of the Italian Centre of Excellence (CoE) C-IED for countering all types of explosives. It is a leading actor in explosive ordnance disposal, both nationally and internationally, and has contributed over the years personnel, equipment, and expertise to humanitarian demining programs.

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

Thank you, Madam Chair.