



Permanent Mission of Italy to
the United Nations - New York

**First Committee of the 81st UN General Assembly
Cluster IV – Conventional Weapons**

**Statement by H.E. Tomaso Pietro Marchegiani
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament in
Geneva**

Thursday, 22nd October 2026

Chair,

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

At a time of growing polarization, when new and protracted conflicts continue to erode international peace and security, Italy firmly believes that International Humanitarian Law must remain a cornerstone of our collective efforts to regulate conventional weapons and mitigate their humanitarian consequences.

The simple principle that “even wars have rules” remains as relevant today as when the Geneva Conventions were conceived. Respect for International Humanitarian Law is not optional and must guide both the conduct of hostilities and our efforts to address weapons raising serious humanitarian concerns.

Against this background, the renewed use of weapons that the international community has sought to eliminate, including anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions, is a matter of profound concern.

The Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in Vientiane in September, provided an important opportunity to strengthen implementation and universalization. Italy condemns the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions by any actor and welcomes the Vientiane Capital Action Plan as our framework for concrete action over the next five years.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is also facing unprecedented challenges. The continued use of anti-personnel mines, together with recent developments within the Convention, represent serious setbacks to nearly three decades of progress. Italy remains convinced that the humanitarian rationale underpinning the Convention is as compelling as ever and calls for renewed efforts towards its universalization and full implementation.

These weapons continue to kill and injure civilians long after conflicts have ended, prevent displaced populations from returning home and impose humanitarian, social and economic burdens that can last for decades.

Chair,

Against this challenging background, we welcome the important progress achieved within the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Agreement on a set of elements of an instrument, without prejudging its nature, and other possible measures to address emerging technologies in the area of LAWS represents an important milestone. It demonstrates that multilateral dialogue can still deliver concrete results even on highly complex and sensitive issues. We look forward to the Seventh Review Conference in November to build on this achievement and determine the way forward.

The Arms Trade Treaty also remains an indispensable component of the international architecture governing conventional arms transfers. Italy, member of the ATT Group of Friends, remains strongly committed to the effective implementation and universalization of the Treaty, including through the approval of the five-year strategy in 2027. Preventing illicit trafficking and diversion requires effective national controls, rigorous risk assessments and continued international cooperation.

Italy also remains firmly committed to addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, and to advancing effective conventional ammunition management through the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management.

Finally, Italy reiterates its strong support for the Political Declaration on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas and encourages other States to endorse it. Its effective implementation can make a concrete contribution to reducing civilian harm in increasingly urbanized armed conflicts.

Chair,

At a time when the achievements of humanitarian disarmament are increasingly under pressure, preserving and strengthening them is a shared responsibility. Italy will continue to work with all partners to uphold International Humanitarian Law, protect civilians and ensure that multilateralism remains capable of delivering concrete results.

Thank you, Chair.