Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
(San Jose’, 1-5 September 2014)
Statement by Italy under agenda item 10 (g)

Mr. President,

Italy would like to take this opportunity to underline the importance it gives to international
cooperation and assistance activities in the mine action sector, as a concrete demonstration
of the commitments made in the international arena with the ratification of the main
Conventions in this field, including the Oslo Convention.

In 2011 Italy adopted a legislation specifically aimed at the implementation of the CCM
and, through a specific Fund for Humanitarian Demining, it finances mine action programs
that include clearance of contaminated areas, mine risk education, as well as activities for
the care and rehabilitation, social and economic reintegration of mine victims, as part of its
humanitarian aid envelope. Yearly, an average of 2 million Euro are specifically dedicated
to support mine action programmes in heavily affected countries including Afghanistan,
Libya, Somalia and Bosnia.

In this regard, it is worth mentioning that a key priority of the Italian humanitarian action
is the protection of vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, in conflict and
emergency situations. During the current Italian Presidency of the EU, we are committed
to raise awareness and to promote a debate on the specific needs of people with disabilities
in the context of humanitarian aid.

Our approach is the result of an inclusive consultation process with national institutions
and other partners involved, notably civil society, which has brought to the issuance of
Guidelines on Disability and, subsequently, to the adoption of a Development Cooperation
Disability Action Plan.
This Action Plan has set the framework to ensure that our development cooperation efforts reach the most discriminated and marginalised people worldwide, and, among them, the victims of mines and explosive remnants of war. For instance, Italy supported projects providing physical rehabilitation for amputees and other persons with disabilities, as well as social reintegration activities and rehabilitation of mine/ERW survivors in Afghanistan and South Sudan.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.