



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

Convention on Cluster Munitions
Second Review Conference – First Part
25 - 27 November 2020

Universalization

Statement by Mr. Tancredi Francese
Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time that my Delegation takes the floor, let me warmly congratulate you for assuming the Presidency of the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Let me especially commend you – with the precious support of the Implementation Support Unit and of the Secretariat – for having spared no effort to allow the State Parties to continue working together, even in such an unprecedented and exceptional situation. Please rest assured of my Delegation's full support and cooperation.

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

Mr. President,

We strongly support the Convention, which represents one of the main international instruments restricting or prohibiting the use of weapons contrary to International Humanitarian Law. Looking ahead, we believe that high priority should continue to be given to the universalization of the CCM. Italy regrets that many States, including the major possessors and producers, are still outside the Convention. We urge all States not yet Parties to join the CCM and so to give their concrete contribution to build a safer world.

Important results have been registered in the latest review cycle and we warmly welcome the new States Parties. We also welcome the great support for the Convention shown this year by the voting in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. However, we seem still far from reaching the goal of 130 State Parties set by the Dubrovnik Action Plan. In our view, this is not a reason to resign ourselves, but to duplicate efforts to promote the principles of the Convention and the value to become party of it.

We appreciate the work you are conducting, Mr. President, together with the support of Chile and the Philippines as universalization coordinators. We are grateful to them for today's presentation and for the recommendations included in the working paper presented at the Second Preparatory Meeting, which could contribute to our common goal. We also attach value to the launch, this year, of an informal working group on universalization. In this respect, Italy confirms its willingness to give a contribution to this initiative.

In particular, we think it would be important to seek synergies with other international fora in the humanitarian sector, to promote the importance to adhere to the Convention also outside the "disarmament machinery". In addition, we could work more on developing a CCM champions' network and, looking at the valuable example of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, reflect about the appointment of Special Envoys.

Thank you, Mr. President.