

STATEMENT BY ITALY
On the issue of the Implementation Support Unit
3MSP, Oslo 11-14 September 2012

Mr President,

First of all, my delegation would like to pay tribute to the tremendous efforts carried out by the outgoing Lebanese presidency.

Let me also express our support to the path, the process as you call it Mr. President, that you have presented to us just now. The positions between States Parties remain distant on key aspects. More time is therefore needed and we trust you in being able to continue consultation in Geneva with a view to hopefully achieving an agreed solution to be adopted by the 4th Meeting of States Parties in 2013.

Yesterday, in the general debate, we have reaffirmed our clear support to the establishment of an Implementation Support Unit. Our position on the financial model is well known and I am not going to elaborate on it. We support a system based on voluntary contributions like the one existing for the ISU of the Ottawa Convention.

I would also like, Mr. President, to elaborate further on an aspect that we consider important for our discussion.

In the general statements made by States yesterday and today, we have not heard any State affirming that it deals in different ways with the problems caused by landmines and other explosive remnants of war, being them originated by ordinary ordnance or by cluster munitions. On the contrary, a number of States and the European Union, which are deeply engaged in providing assistance in Mine Action, clearly stated that they do not differentiate between the types of explosive remnants.

This is a line very much shared also by civil society. To our knowledge, the ICBL and the CMC decided to merge in order to achieve a greater efficiency of their action.

For these reasons, as far as the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions is concerned and in particular the establishment of an ISU, we call upon developing synergies with other humanitarian disarmament treaties. This is not only for the sake of better employing the scarce available resources and thereby creating useful economies of scale, but mainly for achieving more effective results on the ground, where it matters the most.

Thank you Mr. President