



Ministero degli Affari Esteri

**Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
(Lusaka, 9-13 September 2013)
Statement by Italy**

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives and Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I take the floor for the first time, I wish to congratulate you on your chairmanship and assure you of my delegation's support.

Italy is grateful to the Government of Zambia for organizing and hosting the 4th Meeting of State Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

This Meeting will allow Member States to take stock of the progress achieved so far, identify major challenges and consider measures to assure the full implementation of the Convention. We welcome the draft Lusaka Progress Report, which provides a good working basis for our discussions.

Italy fully subscribes to the statement of the European Union. I will add remarks on a national capacity.

This Convention is an important milestone on the way to a more secure and peaceful world. Fully sharing its guiding principles, Italy supported the negotiating process from the start and is engaged in fulfilling its national obligations. In this connection let me anticipate that our stockpile destruction process is on track for completion by 2014. I will provide you with a detailed report in the course of the pertinent session.

Mr. President,

The Vientiane Declaration and Action Plan adopted at the First Meeting of States Parties in 2010 continue to provide guidance for our actions. In this regard, Italy attaches great importance to two elements, namely universalization and international cooperation and assistance.

Today 83 states are party to the Convention, while 29 states are signatories. We welcome the progress made since the Third Meeting of States Parties. However, many states, including the major possessors and producers, are still outside the Convention. We must persist in our individual and collective efforts to pursue universal adherence.

We are deeply concerned about allegations of use of cluster munitions. We call on all States concerned to fully investigate these allegations and publicly clarify these matters. The protection of civilians from unnecessary harm is an obligation for all States. The recurrent use of cluster munitions reminds us of the need to universalize the norms of this Convention.

The second pillar we must build on is international cooperation and assistance. Italy is deeply concerned about the humanitarian problems caused by explosive remnants of war and explosive devices that have indiscriminate effects. Accordingly, we have been supporting mine action in a concrete way, especially in the field of clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance, including cluster munition remnants, and assistance to victims. In this spirit, over the last five years Italy has devoted more than 10.2 million Euros to mine action programmes.

Mr. President,

A number of issues have to be dealt with during this meeting in order to make the work of the CCM more effective. Let me assure you that the Italian delegation will do its part to support you and contribute to the success of the 4MSP, safeguarding the credibility of this forum and strengthening the cohesion of its members.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.
