



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.