



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

**Convention on Cluster Munitions
Second Preparatory Meeting of the Second Review Conference**

Item 5-b (Victim Assistance)

**Delivered by Mr. Tancredi Francese,
Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament**

Geneva, 4 September 2020

Mister President,

We appreciate very much the chapter on Victim Assistance, as it reiterates the long-term commitment of the State Parties for an aspect that lies at the core of humanitarian efforts.

We especially value the reference to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and **we would like to propose a specific action connected with art. 11 of the CRPD, namely the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk**, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters. We believe that, in the current scenario, this issue is more relevant than ever.

I would like to recall that Italy, in its capacity as Chair of the Victim Assistance Committee of the Ottawa Convention and together with our fellow Members of the Committee (Chile, Sweden and Thailand), has promoted this year a panel on this issue. We have received many positive feedbacks so far, encouraging us to work in this direction.

This represents another example of how synergies can be built with other international instruments and have a positive impact on the implementation of the Convention.