



Permanent Mission of Italy to  
the Conference on Disarmament  
Geneva

**Convention on Cluster Munitions**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties**  
*16-19 September, 2025*  
***General exchange of views***

Mister President,

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta, for assuming the responsibility of chairing this meeting, and express our gratitude to you, the Coordination Committee, the Secretariat and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and its Director, Ms. Pamela Moraga, for the work conducted over the past year.

Mister President,

Italy is fully committed to fulfill its obligations under the Convention and reaffirms its determination to put an end to the suffering caused by cluster munitions. Over the period 2023-2025, Italy has also been particularly proud to sit in the Coordination Committee, being co-coordinator for clearance. Clearing affected territories is the first essential step of any demining program. Sustained efforts are required to ensure that clearance obligations are completed as soon as possible in order to permanently remove the threats that cluster munition remnants pose to human lives, livelihoods and local environment.

In Italy's view, increasing international tension and conflicts make the imperative of a world free of cluster munitions even more urgent. We renew our support to the principles and objectives enshrined in the Convention, a core humanitarian and disarmament treaty, and we call on all States Parties to uphold the same commitment. We regret that several States, including the major possessors and producers, are still not parties to the

Convention. We urge all States not yet Parties to join the CCM without further delay.

Mister President,

Italy firmly condemns Russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and calls on Russia to immediately withdraw all its military forces from the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine.

Italy is deeply concerned by the use of cluster munitions in Ukraine. According to the 2025 Cluster Munition Monitor, Ukraine had the highest number of annual casualties globally for the third consecutive year. Since February 2022, over 1,200 cluster munition casualties have been recorded in the country. Russia continued its cluster munition attacks on civilians in densely populated urban areas of Ukraine during the second half of 2024 and first half of 2025, according to local authorities, media reports, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Civilians continue to represent the vast majority of victims, with a significant impact also on children. This is a trend we need to stop. We reiterate our firm condemnation of the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions by any actor, and urge all States and non-State actors to refrain from it.

Mister President,

International cooperation and assistance are essential to ensure progress in areas such as stockpile destruction, mine clearance, risk education and reduction, and victim assistance. We continue to attach great importance to our responsibility to provide technical, material, and financial assistance to States Parties still affected by remnants of cluster munitions.

We established a dedicated Trust Fund for Humanitarian Demining in 2001 and since then we allocated approximately 100 million euros to mine action programs. Our projects have a holistic approach including clearance, risk education and assistance to victims, paying particular attention to the social-economic dimension. Over 2024, we supported projects for over 8 million euros in Afghanistan, Libya, Mali, Palestine, Somalia, Syria, and Ukraine.

Let me also reaffirm that Italy highly values gender and diversity mainstreaming in the work of the CCM and we commend the activities of the gender focal points conducted throughout this year.

Mister President,

Before concluding, allow me to express our belief that, working for the objective of a world free of cluster munitions, we share the parallel aspiration to a world free of anti-personnel mines, as well as of any other explosive remnants of war. Being party to both the Oslo and Ottawa Conventions, Italy pays special attention to the development of all possible synergies between them and with other relevant international fora.

Italy has also been a long-standing supporter of the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM, whose role has been central in assisting States Parties with implementing the Convention's provisions and in promoting its universalization. In 2025, our financial support to the ISU will continue unchanged.

Thank you, Mister President.