



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

**Permanent Representation of Italy
to the Conference on Disarmament**

Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (3 RC – CCM)

Vientiane, Laos – 14/18 September 2026

General Remarks by the Head of the Italian Delegation, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament, Tomaso Pietro Marchegiani

Mr. President,

allow me to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Third Review Conference. Italy assures you of its full support and stands ready to contribute constructively to a successful outcome of the Conference.

Let me also thank you for the kind invitation and warm welcome to Vientiane.

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I

would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

This Conference takes place at a particularly challenging time for humanitarian disarmament. The continued use of cluster munitions demonstrates that the Convention remains as necessary and relevant as ever. 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. At the same time, we urge all States not yet Parties to join the CCM without further delay.

We fully recognize the Convention's tangible achievements.

All States Parties with stockpile destruction obligations have completed them, destroying nearly 1.5 million cluster munitions. Eighteen States Parties have fulfilled their clearance obligations, and a record level of land was cleared and released in 2025. These results demonstrate the effectiveness of humanitarian disarmament when political commitment is translated into sustained implementation.

Recent reports of the use of cluster munitions in several conflicts, including in Ukraine, remain a source of deep concern. Civilians, including children, continue to bear the greatest burden, while the resulting contamination obstructs reconstruction, economic activity and the safe return of affected communities. These developments underline the importance of protecting the integrity of the Convention and further strengthening the international norm against these weapons.

Italy is proud to have contributed to the implementation of the Convention, including as co-coordinator on clearance and risk education between 2023 and 2025. We welcome the stronger recognition of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education as a distinct and essential pillar of the Convention, especially where insecurity or limited access makes clearance difficult. We also support the integration of environmental and climate considerations into survey, clearance and national planning, building on the working paper presented by Italy and France.

Victim assistance must remain equally central to our work. Survivors, their families and affected communities should have access, without discrimination, to healthcare, rehabilitation, psychosocial support, education and socio-economic inclusion. Their meaningful participation, together with gender-, age- and disability-responsive approaches, is essential to effective implementation. Let me here express our deep sorrow and condolences to the people of Laos that suffered and suffers heavy losses caused by cluster munitions – Italy stands by you and your people in this suffering.

Mr. President,

International cooperation and assistance are indispensable. Since establishing its Humanitarian Demining Fund in 2001, Italy has allocated over 110 million euros to mine action.

The next cycle should promote predictable and sustainable financing, national ownership, multi-year planning, effective coordination and the exchange of technical expertise. Italy is ready to consider innovative financing solutions. Any new mechanism, however, should demonstrate added value, remain complementary to existing bilateral and multilateral channels and avoid duplication.

We welcome the progress achieved in preparing the Vientiane Capital Action Plan, the Review of the Lausanne Action Plan and the Political Declaration. These texts should provide ambitious but realistic guidance, supported by measurable indicators and effective reporting.

They should also reinforce the Convention while preserving legal clarity. Italy regrets the first withdrawal from the Convention, while recognizing the rights established under Article 20. This development should strengthen our collective determination to preserve the Convention's integrity, prevent further withdrawals and intensify universalization efforts.

Mr. President,

The success of this Conference will ultimately be measured by its impact on affected people and communities. Italy will continue to work with States Parties, the United Nations, the ICRC, the GICHD, the Cluster Munition Coalition, mine action operators and civil society to translate our commitments into concrete results.

Let us seize this opportunity to reaffirm the strength of the Convention and move decisively towards a world free from cluster munitions.

I thank you, Mr. President.