

ITALY'S STATEMENT ON MINE ACTION
**(Geneva – 3/7 February, 2003 – Standing Committee on mine clearance,
mine awareness and related technologies)**

MR. CO-CHAIRMAN,

1. IN 2002, ITALY ALLOCATED 9.81 MILLION EUROS TO HUMANITARIAN DE-MINING AND VICTIM ASSISTANCE OPERATIONS WORLDWIDE, A FOUR-TIME INCREASE VIS-A-VIS ITS CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2001.

IN DEFINING OUR PRIORITIES, WE INTENDED TO ASSURE THE ESSENTIAL CONTINUITY - ADVOCATED BY MINE AFFLICTED COUNTRIES, UN SPECIALISED AGENCIES AND NGOS' COMMUNITY - IN MINE ACTION FUNDING.

THE MAIN PRIORITIES FOR OUR ASSISTANCE IN THE 2002 BUDGET WERE:

- CONTINUING OUR SUPPORT OF THE HUMANITARIAN DEMINING EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN, WITH A 1 MILLION EUROS CONTRIBUTION;
- A STRONG AND ARTICULATED FINANCING (2,8 MILLION EUROS) OF MINE ACTION AND MINE AWARENESS IN ANGOLA;
- SUPPORT TO ETHIOPIA'S EFFORTS IN HUMANITARIAN DEMINING AND MINE RISK EDUCATION, WITH A 500,000 EUROS CONTRIBUTION;
- A NET INCREASE IN OUR SUPPORT TO HUMANITARIAN DEMINING AND MINE RISK EDUCATION IN THE BALKAN AND CAUCASIC AREA, WITH A 1,825 MILLION EUROS CONTRIBUTION TO BOSNIA-ERZEGOVINA AND A 200,000 EURO CONTRIBUTION IN AZERBAIJAN;
- SUPPORT TO MOZAMBIQUE'S EFFORTS IN ALL FIELDS OF MINE ACTION, WITH A 900,000 EUROS CONTRIBUTION;
- CONTINUING SUPPORT TO THE YEMENI NATIONAL PROGRAM, WITH A 500,000 EUROS CONTRIBUTION;
- SUPPORT TO HUMANITARIAN DE-MINING ACTIVITIES IN HIGHLY AFFECTED COUNTRIES, SUCH AS SRI LANKA (CONTRIBUTION OF

400,000 EUROS), CHAD (CONTRIBUTION OF 200,000 EUROS), SUDAN (CONTRIBUTION OF 158,000 EUROS), LAOS (CONTRIBUTION OF 150,000 EUROS);

- CONTINUING OUR SUPPORT TO THE O.A.S. FOR MINE ACTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA, WITH A CONTRIBUTION OF 250,000 EUROS;
- CONTINUING OUR SUPPORT TO ALL INITIATIVES AIMED AT PROMOTING THE CORRECT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION, INCLUDING THE SUPPORT TO ALL ACTIVITIES CARRIED ON BY THE GICHD (INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT AND THE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME, WITH A GLOBAL CONTRIBUTION OF 212,000 EUROS);
- INCREASED SUPPORT (420,000 EUROS CONTRIBUTION) TO ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE INTERNATIONAL AND THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES AIMED AT THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION. IN PARTICULAR, ITALY WILL HOST IN ROME - FROM 7 TILL 9 OF APRIL - THE YEARLY SEMINAR OF RESEARCHERS WHO WILL DRAFT THE 2003 LANDMINE MONITOR REPORT;
- SUPPORT TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NGO "GENEVA CALL" (100,000 EUROS CONTRIBUTION) AIEMD AT UNIVERSALIZING THE OTTAWA CONVENTION BY PROMOTING NON STATE ACTORS ADHERENCE TO ITS PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES;
- SUPPORT TO THE UNMAS "EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN", BASED IN BRINDISI, WITH A CONTRIBUTION OF 195,000 EUROS.

AS YOU CAN EASILY DETECT, IN 2002 ITALY CLEARLY UPGRADED ITS ENGAGEMENT IN THE FIELD OF MINE ACTION, IN LINE WITH THE ASSUMPTION OF LARGER RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE INTERSESSIONAL WORK AS CO-RAPPORTEUR OF THE STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION STANDING COMMITTEE.

I WOULD LIKE, IN THE END, TO UNDERLINE ONCE MORE THE IMPORTANCE TO ASSURE CONSTANT INFORMATION ON PROJECT MONITORING AND POST PROJECT EVALUATION, NOT ONLY IN BILATERAL ASSISTANCE, BUT ALSO IN MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE. THIS IS ANOTHER REASON WHY WE DO APPRECIATE THE INITIATIVE OF FIELD TRIPS PROMOTED BY UNMAS AND THE MINE ACTION SUPPORT GROUP. IT IS A PRACTICE ITALY WOULD LIKE TO SEE STRENGTHENED.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, AND DESPITE PROGRESS REGISTERED, WE BELIEVE THAT FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS REMAIN TO BE MADE IN THIS FIELD. IN PARTICULAR, MORE TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON PROJECTS' ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES HAVE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE BEFORE FUNDS' ALLOCATION BY DONOR COUNTRIES.

FURTHERMORE, ASSESSMENTS OF ONGOING PROGRAMMES AND FINAL, DETAILED REPORTS ON THEIR CONCLUSION HAVE TO BE CIRCULATED IN DUE TIME. UNFORTUNATELY, DELAYS ON THIS CRUCIAL ASPECT STILL OCCUR.

AS ALREADY EXPRESSED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THIS STANDING COMMITTEE, IN MAY 2002, IT IS ONLY BY PROVIDING DATA AND INFORMATION ON RESULTS ACHIEVED, THAT WE WILL MANAGE TO CONVINCING OUR PARLIAMENT TO SUPPORT AN INCREASING LEVEL OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS FOR MINE ACTION.

THANK YOU MR, PRESIDENT.