

**ITALY'S STATEMENT ON MINE ACTION**  
**(H.E. AMBASSADOR MAIOLINI)**  
**(Geneva – 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2002 – Standing Committee on mine clearance, mine awareness and related technologies)**

MR. CO-CHAIRMAN,

THIS YEAR ITALY HAS REPORTED IN THE FORM “J” OF ARTICLE 7 REPORT THE DETAILS OF THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED IN ALL SECTORS OF MINE ACTION . WE USED THE FORM “J” FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND WE PLAN TO MAKE A MORE EXTENSIVE USE OF THIS INSTRUMENT IN THE NEXT YEARS. WE ARE INDEED CONVINCED THAT IT WILL PROVE TO BE AN EXCELLENT WAY TO ASSURE MORE COORDINATED EFFORTS AS WELL AS A GREATER TRANSPARENCY ON THE DONORS’ SIDE.

2. AS REGARDS ITALIAN PROGRAMS FOR 2002, WE ARE IN THE FINAL PHASE OF PLANNING THE ALLOCATION OF 9.8 MILLION EUROS. WE FOUND VERY USEFUL THE INITIATIVES TAKEN BY UNMAS, TOGETHER WITH THE SUPPORT MINE ACTION GROUP TO CONVENE LAST FEBRUARY HERE IN GENEVA A SPECIAL MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF ASSISTANCE PROJECTS, AS WELL AS THE FIELD TRIP RECENTLY ORGANISED IN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA. THOSE WERE REALLY PRECIUOS OCCASIONS WHICH HELPED US A LOT IN THE PRIORITIZATION PROCESS AND WE WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND UNMAS FOR THAT AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO CONTINUE ON THIS WAY.

IN THE DEFINITION OF OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2002 WE ARE INTENDING TO RESPOND, AS MUCH AS WE CAN, TO UNMAS CALL FOR CONTINUITY IN THE MINE ACTION FUNDING.

A CRUCIAL ROLE TO THIS END CAN BE PLAYED BY ASSURING A 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. IT IS ONLY BY PROVIDING DATA AND INFORMATION ON RESULTS ACHIEVED, THAT WE WILL MANAGE TO CONVINCEN OUR PARLIAMENT TO SUPPORT AN INCREASING LEVEL OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS FOR MINE ACTION.

EVEN IF AMOUNTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN FINALISED, THE MAIN PRIORITIES FOR OUR ASSISTANCE ON THE 2002 BUDGET WILL BE:

- CONTINUING OUR SUPPORT OF THE HUMANITARIAN DEMINING EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN;
- SUPPORT TO ETHIOPIA'S AND ERITREA'S EFFORTS IN HUMANITARIAN DEMINING, SPECIALLY IN THE TEMPORARY SECURITY ZONE, ON THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, TOGETHER WITH SUPORT IN THE FIELD OF MINE RISK EDUCATION;
- CONTINUING OUR SUPPORT TO HUMANITARIAN DEMINING AND MINE RISK EDUCATION IN THE BALKAN AREA (I.E. BOSNIA-ERZEGOVINA AND CROATIA);
- SUPPORT TO MOZAMBIQUE'S EFFORTS IN ALL FIELDS OF MINE ACTION;
- CONTINUING OUR SUPPORT TO THE YEMENI NATIONAL PROGRAM;
- CONTINUING OUR SUPPORT TO THE O.A.S. FOR MINE ACTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA;
- CONTINUING OUR SUPPORT TO ALL INITIATIVES AIMED AT PROMOTING THE CORRECT IMPLEMENTATION AND UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION, INCLUDING THE SUPPORT TO ALL ACTIVITIES CARRIED ON BY THE GICHD, LANDMINE MONITOR REPORT.

MOREOVER, WE ARE CLOSELY FOLLOWING OTHER AREAS WHICH DO NEED ASSISTANCE, AS IT IS THE CASE FOR ANGOLA.

AS YOU CAN EASILY DETECT, ITALY IS NOT ONLY RE-LAUNCHING ITS POLICY IN HUMANITARIAN DEMINING, BUT IS TODAY IN A PHASE OF REAL UPGRADING OF ITS ENGAGEMENT IN THE FIELD OF MINE ACTION. IT IS A PHASE THAT, IN OUR VIEW COULD AND SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSUMPTION OF LARGER RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE INTERSESSIONAL WORK. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HERE THAT WE ARE READY TO DO OUR PART.

THANK YOU MR, PRESIDENT.