



**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
16th Meeting of the States Parties
Vienna, 18-21 December 2017**

**Statement by Ambassador Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

Cooperation between ISUs

Mr. President,

Italy has been a long-standing supporter of the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. We have allocated a substantial voluntary contribution to its activities also in the current year and we are satisfied that the financial difficulties it faced in the past are now overcome.

Being strongly convinced of the essential role played by the ISU in promoting the full implementation of our Convention, we are particularly interested in promoting every measure that could lead to an increase of the effectiveness and efficiency of its activities. In this regard, let me thank you for your report on the opportunities for cooperation between ISUs, whose conclusions we fully share.

As the report highlights, there are several thematic overlaps among the Mine Ban Convention, the CCM and Protocol V of the CCW, which open the door for cooperation between the ISUs, with the potential to ensure more coherent implementation approaches. .

Indeed, thematic collaboration on issues of common concern is not only possible, but is already occurring. One example, also mentioned in your document, relates to the land release workshop jointly organized last June by the Presidencies of the APMBC and the CCM with the support of the respective ISUs. The guidance on an integrated approach to Victim Assistance developed in the CCM framework and the guidance to VA reporting developed in the APMBC framework, are also useful tools for the membership of all Conventions that set obligations in this sector.

These are excellent results. We continue to believe that these “bottom-up” practices have great utility and potential to strengthen implementation of the CCM, the APMBC and Protocol V of the CCW, also allowing for a more efficient and effective use of scarce resources.

We agree with your report’s additional conclusion that the holding of meetings back-to-back could benefit the Conventions and the States Parties, including in the administration of the sponsorship programme. We also continue to believe that a coordinated approach to reporting across Conventions could facilitate the process of information gathering and, more generally, could help address the phenomenon of “reporting fatigue”.

For us, benefits of exploiting synergies at the operational level, domestic and international, are clear. We acknowledge that there may be some practical limitations to be addressed, but are also convinced that these could be managed, as it has been done in other regimes.

For this reason, in our capacity as co-coordinator for Victim Assistance under the Oslo Convention, we will continue to promote a cross-convention approach in the fulfillment of our mandate.

We also encourage the ISU to further pursue such forms of cooperation with other implementation support units and believe that Member States should monitor progress achieved in this regard, through a dedicated item in next MSPs agenda.

Mr. President,

Since I have the floor, let me address briefly the issue of financial resources, on which the EU [will elaborate/has elaborated] in greater detail.

These resources – both voluntary funding for the ISU budget, and assessed contributions to cover meeting costs – are key to fulfil all the obligations set by the Convention.

We are concerned by the current financial shortfall of the Convention, which has led to the shortening of the Meeting of States Parties for a second consecutive year. This and other extraordinary measures should remain an exception rather than become a rule.

We encourage further discussion on ways to ensure the financial sustainability of the Convention. Measures recently adopted under the CCW can provide a useful source of inspiration in this regard. Italy stand ready to contribute to this debate.

Thank you.