



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

**Sixth Pledging Conference
for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

Geneva, 23 February 2021

**delivered by H.E. Ambassador Gianfranco Incarnato,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

Mister President,

At the outset, I would like to warmly congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention and to commend you for organizing this Pledging Conference and for all the activities that you have already set up, together with the Coordinating Committee and the ISU.

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. Let me add some remarks in my national capacity.

Mister President,

We came a long way since the Convention was signed, in 1997, marking a historic step in addressing the serious humanitarian impacts of conventional weapons. We must be mindful of the great achievements it enabled, but at the same time we must bear in mind the challenges that we still need to face, as it clearly appeared during the latest Meeting of the State Parties.

The pandemic obliges us to find new ways of working, without leaving no one behind. Mine-action cannot stop and we continue looking at the Oslo Action Plan as a wise guide and a concrete step in the right direction, establishing a long but clear path for fostering mine action in all its aspects. Moreover, we undertook a common renewed effort towards the implementation of the Convention, focusing on a set of actions and indicators.

Mister President,

Italy remains deeply convinced of the important role of the Convention. For us, supporting its work is more than a legal obligation; it is a long-standing commitment, as a part of our comprehensive approach to mine action.

A dedicated Trust Fund for Humanitarian Demining was set up by law in 2001, allowing the allocation of resources to mine action projects relating to anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war. Since then, Italy has devoted more than 62 million Euros to Mine Action programmes.

Through the Fund, we have also contributed to support the ISU of the Convention since its establishment. We believe that the Unit has consistently provided effective assistance to all States Parties in implementing the Convention's provisions, providing technical advice, building capacity, and promoting universalization.

At the national level, the planning and budgeting process for Mine Action Activities in 2021 is still at the early stages. However, we can already confirm that we will be able to contribute to supporting the ISU activities with an amount of 40.000 Euros.

Thank you, Mister President.