



Permanent Mission of Italy to
the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva

**Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)
22nd Meeting of States Parties**

Universalization
2 December 2025

Madam President,

Italy would like to praise the Special Envoys, HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al Hussein of Jordan and HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium, for their efforts towards the universalization of the Convention and for advancing our common goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines. Like other delegations, we would also like to warmly welcome the Marshall Islands and Tonga to the Convention.

Despite these encouraging announcements, we remain mindful of the challenges to universalization. We gather today at a time marked by the continued presence and large-scale use of these heinous weapons in new and protracted conflicts, with devastating consequences for the lives of thousands.

In particular, the Russian Federation's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine has further deteriorated the international security environment, leading to unprecedented developments within the framework of the Convention. While recognizing the legitimate security concerns of certain States, we consider it crucial in this difficult context to uphold the norm against the use of anti-personnel mines and to renew our steadfast commitment to the principles and objectives agreed nearly three decades ago in Ottawa.

Against this backdrop, we take note of Ukraine's decision to purportedly suspend the operation of the Convention, as communicated by the United Nations Secretary-General to States Parties on 21 July 2025. We will continue to encourage Ukraine's close adherence to the key provisions of this instrument, which remains vital for the protection of civilians both during and after conflict. In the meantime, our support for Ukraine remains unwavering, including our existing commitments to humanitarian demining efforts in the country.

I would like to conclude by recalling the Secretary-General's recent call that "[a]t a time when civilians face heightened risks from widening conflicts, it is imperative that we strengthen the frameworks that protect human life and dignity".

Thank you, Madam President.