



Permanent Mission of Italy to
the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva

Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)
Intersessional Meetings
Victim Assistance

17 June 2025

Chair,

At the outset, I would like to thank you and the other members of the Committee on Victim Assistance for all the efforts spearheaded in this endeavour.

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

Strengthening all the provisions of the Convention, including the very important ones related to victim assistance, was instrumental to a successful Review Conference. We support the comprehensive language developed in the Siem-Reap Angkor Action Plan which recalls the need for victim assistance to be integrated into broader national policies, plans, budgets and legal frameworks as well as the synergies identified with the UNSG Sustainable Development Goals and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Providing assistance to victims is more important than ever due to growing conflicts that have a direct impact on the lives of millions of people in contaminated areas. Mine action is at the core of the Italian humanitarian assistance and to this end a dedicated fund for humanitarian demining was established in 2001. Since the establishment of the fund, approximately 100 million euros have been allocated to initiatives which meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in emergency contexts, such as the people with disabilities.

Our projects have a holistic and integrated multi-sector approach, which combines physical rehabilitation, psycho-social support and socio-economic integration. Over 2024,

we supported projects for over 8 million euros in Afghanistan, Libya, Mali, Palestine, Somalia, Syria, and Ukraine.

In Palestine, we supported the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to reduce the threat posed by unexploded ordnance (Explosive Remnants of War - ERW) in the Gaza Strip, through the updating and development of training programs on "Explosive Remnants of War Risk Education" (EORE) and "Conflict Preparedness and Protection" (CPP), with the consequent implementation of training programs dedicated to the most vulnerable population in Gaza. At the same time, actions have been planned to support the activity of UNMAS in the West Bank, which supports the Palestinian Mine Action Centre (PMAC), through the development of a victim assistance strategy, data management in line with protection principles, coordination of EORE activities and quality control.

In Afghanistan, Mali and Somalia, we supported the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the implementation of projects pertaining the 2024 Special Appeal on "Disability and Humanitarian Demining", through specialized health care and socio-economic inclusion activities for disabled people, in particular victims of anti-personnel mines and other unexploded ordnance. The general objective of the programme is to guarantee and expand access to good quality rehabilitation services at the centres that the ICRC manages or supports.

Finally, through the Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), Italy continues to support the "Paola Biocca Centre" in Jordan. The centre specializes in orthopedic medical care and provides prostheses to refugees, migrants and residents with amputated limbs. Patients are followed up from the first visit until complete rehabilitation, also from a psychological point of view, in order to enable them to regain their socio-economic life.

We are aware that this sector is still severely underfunded. Even though we have made progress, there are still a number of challenges. It would be important, for instance, to ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of rehabilitation-related technologies through more open and competitive markets and by ensuring information sharing among States. From this perspective, universities and private companies in the sector could be involved and we look with interest at tailored workshops and seminars exploring alternative methods of financing.

The Italian Cooperation will continue supporting victim assistance activities and initiatives also in the future and I would like to thank you again for letting us share our experience in this field.

Thank you, Chair.