



Permanent Mission of Italy to
the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva

Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)
Intersessional Meetings
International Cooperation and Assistance

18 June 2025

Madame Chair,

First of all, I would like to join other delegations in expressing our appreciation for the work conducted by you and the other members of the Committee on the Enhancement of International Cooperation and Assistance.

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

International cooperation and assistance are essential to achieve the goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines, ensuring progress in areas such as stockpile destruction, mine clearance, risk education and reduction, and victim assistance. Actions 40-45 of the Siem-Reap Angkor Action Plan and their respective indicators provide a clear roadmap for both donors and affected state on ways to empower partnerships and increase coordination in order to achieve meaningful results.

Commitments alone are not enough if appropriate financial resources are lacking. We are proud to have chaired over 2023-2024 the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), which coordinates at global level the humanitarian mine action programs, harmonizes priorities and increases donor support in the sector. As far as Italy is concerned, we established a dedicated Trust Fund for Humanitarian Demining in 2001, providing for the allocation of resources to mine action projects related to anti-personnel landmines and explosive

remnants of war. Since then, we allocated approximately 100 million euros to mine action programs.

Our projects have a holistic approach including clearance, risk education and assistance to victims, paying particular attention to the social-economic dimension. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) have been long standing partners of Italy for the implementation of a variety of projects.

In 2024, most of our efforts were dedicated to demining activities in Ukraine, through technical and non-technical surveys, paying particular attention to the needs of women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, minorities, environmental and climate issues and the mitigation and management of natural disasters. Following Russia's full-scale war of aggression, Ukraine is today one of the most mine-contaminated areas in the world.

On 10-11 July 2025, we will host the fourth Ukraine Recovery Conference, continuing the annual series of high-level political events dedicated to the swift recovery and long-term reconstruction of Ukraine. We hope the Conference will be an opportunity to strengthen the resilience of the country, including through the implementation of mine action support programs.

We strengthen multilateralism by empowering collaborations with the UN, other international and regional organizations, civil society and survivors' organizations. We consider this an effective way to fully implement the Convention, maximizing the contribution and impact of all the available expertise and knowledge.

Before concluding, Madame Chair, I would like to stress that the notions of "national ownership" and "donor coordination" are two key tenets of the Italian Cooperation, including in humanitarian demining. Therefore, we greatly value initiatives such as the Country Coalition as well as the Individualized Approach and we look forward to joining the dedicated side events planned during these intersessional meetings.

Italy stands ready to contribute to all these efforts, enhancing the effectiveness of international assistance through greater coordination among all relevant stakeholders at local and international level.

Thank you, Madame Chair.