



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

**Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use
of Certain Conventional Weapons
which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects**

Sixth Review Conference
Agenda item 11: General Exchange of views
Geneva, 13 December 2021

**Statement by Amb. Gianfranco Incarnato,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

Mister President,

At the outset, let me join previous delegations in warmly congratulating you on your appointment. We wish to thank you, your team, the Office holders and the Secretariat for the important work conducted in preparation of the Review Conference. I assure you of Italy's full support for a productive meeting.

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

Mister President,

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its annexed Protocols are fundamental instruments for creating and promoting International Humanitarian Law.

Italy has always believed that the unique composition of the CCW, combining diplomatic, legal and military expertise, and its openness to the active contribution of specialized institutions and civil society organizations, make it the appropriate forum to address current and emerging issues relating to weapons development and use.

Universal membership in the Convention and its Protocols is a key goal that should continue to be strongly supported. We call on States not yet party to ratify or accede to the Convention and its Protocols as soon as possible.

Mister President,

Italy deeply regrets that the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems has not been able to agree on substantive conclusions or consensus recommendations. While we respect the political positions of any High Contracting Party, we wish to underline that a stalemate on this issue represents a serious challenge for the CCW and it has direct consequences on strategic stability.

More flexibility is required if we are honest about our will to work in the spirit of effective multilateralism, with the view to build a more secure and a more human world. We stand ready to do our part and to take the necessary commitments, as we deem it necessary for the decisions to use lethal force and to produce lethal effects to remain in the hands of human beings.

We wish to thank Ambassador Pectsteen of Belgium and his team for the great work and appreciated efforts chairing the GGE this year. We welcome his summary, as a reflection of the in-depth work carried out so far, and we are ready to use it as a solid basis for our future work. We hope to be able, in the following days, to agree on a constructive solution for a future mandate of the GGE, including the development of an instrument related to weapons system based on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS.

Mister President,

Italy remains fully committed to reducing the suffering and the harm caused by mines, booby-traps and other devices. We deem of key importance to reaffirm that the rules and principles of International Humanitarian Law must be complied with in all circumstances, starting with the principle of humanity and the rules of distinction, proportionality, precaution and military necessity.

This also includes the use of mines other than anti-personnel mines (MOTAPM). In order to prevent and reduce their humanitarian impact, it is necessary to restrict their use and to include a number of precautions reflected in Amended Protocol II and its Technical Annex in national military doctrines and plans.

We also share the deep concern of the international community at the growing use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and at the serious security threats they pose. IEDs are often used in attacks deliberately targeting large numbers of civilians and are responsible for huge numbers of casualties each year. We greatly welcome the work conducted within Protocol II on this issue.

In conclusion, Mister President,

I would like to thank you for your efforts to address the financial situation of the Convention. The point of departure of any discussion on this issue should be that all High Contracting Parties should pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. We do not see this as a bureaucratic obligation, but as the direct reflection of political commitment.

We welcome your proposals to ensure adequate financial stability to the CCW, and are ready to continue engaging to identify long-term solutions, able to put the Convention on a firm financial footing and to endow it with adequate implementation support.

Thank you, Mister President.