



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York

First Committee of the 77th UN General Assembly
Conventional Weapons

**Statement by Mr. Tancredi Francese,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

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Mister Chair,

Italy aligns itself with the statements of the European Union and of Austria on behalf of a group of States. I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Italy firmly upholds all international instruments restricting or prohibiting the use of conventional weapons which are not, or cannot be used, in compliance with International Humanitarian Law.

In this direction, and recalling the damage and suffering caused by unexploded ordnance, we call for the universalization and effective implementation of the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines and the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions. We deeply regret the repeated use of these heinous weapons in certain areas of conflict, and especially in the context of Russia's unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine.

In parallel, we share the deep concern of the international community at the growing use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), even by non-State actors. We call for adequate risk education and victim assistance efforts to face the impact these hazardous weapons have with regard to civilians and peacekeeping personnel in conflict and post-conflict areas.

As part of our long-standing commitment, a dedicated Trust Fund for Humanitarian Demining was set up by domestic law in 2001, and since then Italy has devoted more than € 71 million to Mine Action programmes, with an amount of € 8,5 million as our country's investment for 2022.

The same constructive engagement inspires Italy's efforts towards an effective implementation of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. In view of the next Conference of States Parties, to be held in November in Geneva, we continue to emphasize the value of an inclusive approach to prepare a productive outcome of the meeting, along with the need to adapt the structure and scope of the CCW to normative developments and military weapons technologies.

In this regard, we continue to sustain the mandate of the Group of Governmental Experts on emerging technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE LAWS) and reaffirm the need to ensure a full respect of IHL throughout the entire decision-making process leading to the use of force. In our view, it is the human being who must make decisions concerning the use of force, and remain accountable for those decisions.

We welcome the completion, earlier this year, of the negotiations on the text of a political declaration on EWIPA. Furthermore, we believe in the importance of countering illicit arm transfers and we call for the universalization of the ATT and the full implementation of all its provisions.

Italy regards with particular concern the increase in illicit transfers of small arms and light weapons, including via the so-called deep web, and is constructively engaged in multilateral efforts aimed at curbing the destabilizing accumulation and misuse of SALW and their ammunition. In this regard, and even in light of the priorities set by the Agenda 2030, we promote an inclusive approach to harmonize security concerns, gender-sensitive considerations, and sustainable development.

Thank you, Mister Chair.