

**ITALY'S STATEMENT ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION
GENEVA – 30TH MAY, 2002 – STANDING COMMITTEES
(Mr. Angelo Persiani – Deputy Permanent Representative)**

MR. CO-CHAIR,

THANKS, TO STEVE GOOSE FOR A SUMMARY AS ALWAYS USEFUL, CONCISE, UPDATED. THANKS TO THE INTERESTING PRESENTATIONS BY ALBANIA AND YEMEN THAT WE CONGRATULATE FOR THE COMPLETION OF THEIR DESTRUCTION PROGRAM, AS WELL AS THE PRESENTATIONS OFFERED BY GREECE AND TURKEY.

- WE KEEP ON SAYING THAT PROBABLY –BUT IT SEEMS NOW A FACT – ITALY HAD THE LARGEST STOCKPILE AMONG STATES PARTIES, WITH AN ORIGINAL STOCK OF 7.1 MILLIONS APLS. AS A CONSEQUENCE ITALY HAS THE LARGEST DESTRUCTION PROGRAM ACTUALLY IN PLACE.
- IN ITS STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION ACTION ITALY HAS APPLIED THE EASIEST TECHNOLOGY: AS REPEATEDLY SHOWN DURING THE DIFFERENT SESSIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES, WE HAVE BEEN BASICALLY DISASSEMBLING THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS AND EXPLOSIVE OF OUR APLS, FULLY RESPECTING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS.
- FOR THOSE MINES WHICH CANNOT BE DISASSEMBLED, SPECIAL TECHNIQUES ARE GOING TO BE USED, WITH THE HELP OF THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES. ACTUALLY WHAT REMAINS TODAY STILL TO BE DESTROYED BELONGS ALMOST ENTIRELY TO THE LATEST KIND OF AP MINES, BUT THE PROCESS OF THEIR DESTRUCTION IS WELL UNDERWAY.
- TO DATE, ROUGHLY 380.000 AP MINES HAVE STILL TO BE DESTROYED, AND WE ARE WORKING TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM NEXT AUTUMN. WE EXPECT TO HAVE IT DONE IN TIME FOR THE FOURTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES, DUE IN GENEVA NEXT SEPTEMBER, WELL AHEAD OF THE OTTAWA DEADLINE WHICH IN THE ITALIAN CASE IS OCTOBER 2003. SO OUR UPDATE (WITH RESPECT TO THE SAME ART. 7 REPORT) IS 380.000.
- WHILE PERFORMING SUCH A HUGE DESTRUCTION EFFORT, WE ARE CONFIDENT TO HAVE ACQUIRED A SPECIAL SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE OF KNOW-HOW AND STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION-

RELATED ISSUES AND PROBLEMS. WE ARE READY TO STUDY POSSIBLE AREAS AND APPROPRIATE METHODS OF COOPERATION TOGETHER WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WHO SO WISH.

- IN PARTICULAR, WE COULD PROFIT OF THE OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY THIS SAME MEETING – EXPECIALLY IN THIS AFTERNOON SESSION, BUT AS WELL THROUGH DIRECT BILATERAL INTERACTION – TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH DELEGATES FROM INTERESTED NEEDS AND ASSESSMENT OF THE WAY FORWARD.
- MR. CO-CHAIR, YOU MENTIONED THE CREATION OF A CONTACT GROUP AMONG INTERESTED COUNTRIES IN STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION. WE FEEL IT COULD BE A GOOD IDEA. WE EXPECT TO TAKE PART IN IT, AND WE WISH ALL SUCCESS TO IT. AS A MATTER OF FACT IT IS BASIC TO MEET THE DEADLINES SET BY THE CONVENTION. IT IS BY THAT MEASURE WE WILL EASILY EVALUATE THE SUCCESS AND THE COMPLIANCE OF THE MINE-BAN TREATY. IT IS BY THAT MEASURE THAT WE WILL BE JUDGED BY THE NON-STATE PARTIES.