

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their destruction

Meeting of the Standing Committee on General Status and Operation of the Convention (9 February)

Statement of H.E: Ambassador Carlo Trezza Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr Chairman,

With regard to the question of victim assistance and socio economic reintegration, I wish to draw the attention of the Committee on the latest developments of Italy's action. In addition to the Italian contributions to the 2003 Humanitarian Demining Fund for mine clearance and victim assistance (2.58 million Euro), we wish to notify the following additional efforts:

- 2,946 million Euro for mine clearance in Iraq;
- 25,000 Euro for victim assistance in Croatia;
- 60,670 Euro favour of the American States Organization for victim assistance in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

As for 2004, Italy is oriented to maintain the general 2003 guidelines and give priority to those countries with more serious humanitarian emergencies caused by the presence of mines and which are located in sensitive areas such Sub-Saharan Africa, Balkans, Middle East. More details on funding for the current year will be given during the second session of the Standing Committees.

Furthermore 8.55 million Euro have been allocated for the 2004-2006 refinancing of the Humanitarian Demining Fund.

Thank you Mr. Chairman