

**ITALY'S STATEMENT ON ARTICLE 1 OF OTTAWA CONVENTION  
JOINT MILITARY OPERATION  
(GENEVA 3-7 FEBRUARY, 2003 – STANDING COMMITTEES)**

MR. CO-CHAIR,

- THE ITALIAN RATIFICATION LAW OF OTTAWA CONVENTION (LAW 106/1999) ALSO DEALS WITH ONE OF THE MOST SENSITIVE ISSUES, THAT OF JOINT MILITARY OPERATIONS WITH NON-STATE PARTIES TO THE OTTAWA CONVENTION.
- ARTICLE 5 OF OUR LAW ALLOWS JOINT MILITARY OPERATIONS WITH NON-STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ONLY AS LONG AS SUCH OPERATIONS ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION.
- SUCH A PROVISION HAS ALREADY BEEN TRANSLATED INTO FACTS.
- THE LATEST OCCASION IS THE JOINT OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN. ITALIAN TROOPS DEPLOYED THERE WERE GIVEN WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS TO CATEGORICALLY ABSTAIN FROM ANY PARTICIPATION IN ACTIONS CONTRARY TO THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION.

THANK YOU.