

**ITALY'S STATEMENT ON ARTICLE 2 OF OTTAWA CONVENTION
AVMs EQUIPPED WITH ANTI-HANDLING DEVICES WHICH COULD BE
ASSIMILATED TO APLs
(GENEVA 3-7 FEBRUARY, 2003 – STANDING COMMITTEES)**

MR. CO-CHAIR,

- THE ITALIAN NATIONAL LAW PROVIDES A STRICT DEFINITION OF MINE WHICH ARE PROHIBITED. I QUOTE:

"ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE" MEANS ANY MUNITION OR DEVICE WHICH CAN BE PLACED ON, UNDER, INSIDE OR NEAR THE GROUND OR ANY SURFACE AREA, AND DESIGNED OR ADAPTABLE – BY MEANS OF SPECIFIC MECHANISMS – SO AS TO EXPLODE, CAUSE AN EXPLOSION OR RELEASE INCAPACITATING SUBSTANCES AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE PRESENCE, PROXIMITY OR CONTACT OF A PERSON."

- THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH PROVISION HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY STRINGENT.
- AT THE SAME TIME ITALY AGREES THAT UNIVERSALIZATION IS A VALUE TO KEEP.
- WE THINK THEREFORE THAT WE SHOULD EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES AVAILABLE, THROUGH THE AVENUE OF A BEST PRACTISES APPROACH, AS SUGGESTED BY ICRC AND BELGIUM AS A MEANS OF MOVING FORWARD.

THANK YOU.