

## **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,

As it is the first time that I take the floor let me congratulate you for your appointment and express my warmest wishes for a positive outcome of this meeting. I wish to draw the attention of the Committee on the efforts made by Italy to promote the Universalisation of the Convention.

As Chairman of the European Union in the second semester of 2003, Italy has accomplished 42 diplomatic steps towards non-member countries of the Convention or those countries which ratified it but did not present the reports on operative internal measures. At national level Italy has also accomplished demarches towards EU Member States or acceding countries still not party to the Convention at that time.

The results were quite encouraging. Six countries (Belarus, Burundi, Greece, Serbia-Montenegro, Sudan and Turkey) became members of the Convention; Finland and Estonia have responded positively. We must however recognize the existence of a group of countries which still have major problems with the Ottawa Convention mainly because of strategic-military reasons for which the use of anti-personnel mines is essential to protect national security. I refer in particular to China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Libya, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Syria, and the United States.

Thank you Mr Chairman