

Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention

11 May 2001

Italy statement on universalisation of the Convention

Following the invitation by the Conference of States Parties of last September, Italy has initiated a bilateral dialogue, especially aimed at the universalisation of the Ottawa Convention, with several countries in Africa, with which Italy has strong historical links.

We have pursued this dialogue also during the seminar in Bamako and after it.

Having been instrumental to the peace process recently started in the Horn of Africa, we have now good hopes that the peace process will be able to create favorable conditions for the signature/ratification of the Ottawa Convention by the countries involved.

Further more, Italy is now studying new formulas for support programmes in the sector of mine clearance and of reconversion of previously mined-fields in economic terms. We are convinced that such programmes can be instrumental to the promotion of the universalisation of the Ottawa Convention and its principles.

On these issues Italy will keep informed the contact group on universalisation, that we have been called to join in the last day.