

**ITALY'S STATEMENT ON ARTICLE 3 OF OTTAWA CONVENTION
APLs DETAINED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES
(GENEVA 31ST MAY, 2002 – STANDING COMMITTEES)**

MR. CO-CHAIR,

- THE ITALIAN NATIONAL LAW INITIALLY ESTABLISHED THE AMOUNT OF SUCH APLS IN 10.000. SINCE THEN ITALY HAS ALREADY REDUCED THAT NUMBER TO 8.000 “MAXIMUM” THROUGH THE RATIFICATION LAW OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION. THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER REDUCTION OF SUCH NUMBER.
- ALL DETAILS OF THOSE MINES DETAINED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES ARE REPORTED IN OUR ARTICLE 7 REPORT, WHICH IS AVAILABLE ON THE UNMAS WEB SITE.
- ACTUALLY, IT WAS IN THE COURSE OF THE LAST ANNUAL REVIEW FOR ARTICLE 7 REPORT THAT WE HAVE REALIZED THAT THE NUMBER OF 8.000 SHOULD PROBABLY BE MORE CORRECTLY ASSESSED TO A LOWER LEVEL. AS ONE CAN SEE FROM OUR NATIONAL REPORT, ITALY INCLUDES IN THAT NUMBER ALSO SOME 2.500 COMPONENTS, CLASSIFIED AS “VARIOUS”.
- WE HAVE CARRIED ON AN ANALYSIS OF THOSE COMPONENTS, WHICH PROVED THAT THEY ARE ACCOUNTED FOR APLs EVEN IF THEY ARE TECHNICALLY UNABLE TO BE ASSEMBLED TO SET UP A SINGLE AP MINE.
- THE DIFFERENCE IS DUE TO THE STRINGENT PROVISIONS OF OUR NATIONAL LAW THAT IMPOSE TO OUR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO INCLUDE IN ITS REPORTS NOT ONLY ALL KIND OF MINES RETAINED, BUT ALSO PARTS OF MINES. HOWEVER, FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE OTTAWA TREATY THOSE 2500 UNITS SHOULD NOT BE ACCOUNTED AS APLs.
- IN ANY CASE, WE ARE STRONGLY CONVINCED THAT THE NUMBER OF MINES DETAINED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES SHOULD BE KEPT – AS WE HAVE BEEN HEARING HERE – IN THE ORDER OF THOUSANDS AND NOT TENS OF THOUSANDS.

THANK YOU.