



2nd Ministerial Review Conference on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development

(Geneva, 31 October – 1 November 2011)

* * *

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Laura Mirachian,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN and other International
Organizations in Geneva

Mr. President, Excellencies,

Italy reaffirms its support to the goals and commitments of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

The relation between armed violence and development is, perhaps, an obvious one. Preventing conflicts, tackling the causes of conflicts and addressing the consequences of conflicts are surely important condition to ensure a sustainable development.

Italy is a party to all legal international instruments on humanitarian disarmament: the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and all its Protocols; the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines; the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In particular, Italy is strongly committed to a coordinated and comprehensive approach in tackling the impact of antipersonnel mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war on civilian populations in war-torn areas.

As acknowledged by civil society and the recipients of our programmes, Italy's experience in the field of humanitarian disarmament is positive. We have been focussing, through targeted actions, not only on the re-establishment of a safe and secure environment in the affected areas. We have been also active in creating conditions for social and economic development of areas and population therein, through specific campaigns aimed at raising awareness on the risk of mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war and by assisting the victims of such weapons.

One objective mentioned in the Geneva Declaration is to regulate legal trade of small arms and light weapons and ammunition and, by doing so, to curb illicit trade of these weapons. This goal is a priority for Italy. We have been working consistently over the years to support the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (SALW), the International Tracing Instrument and the Firearms Protocol to the Palermo Convention on Transnational Crime.

Italy strongly supports, together with EU partners, the adoption at next year's diplomatic Conference of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), of a legally binding and robust instrument regulating trade in conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons.

Italy is firmly engaged in disarmament issues and in the protection of civilians involved in armed conflicts, also because we share the believe that armed violence in every situation can affect heavily the development process and seriously challenge the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you Mr. President.