Mr. Chair,

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

I will read a short version of the statement; the full version will be posted on PaperSmart.

During the past decades, the international community has become increasingly aware of the pernicious consequences of illicit, unregulated, or irresponsible transfers of conventional arms on peace, security, safety, respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, and socio-economic development.

The adoption and swift entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty have finally given us a means to curb these negative phenomena and to bring responsibility, accountability, and transparency to the conventional arms trade.

Italy has firmly supported the ATT process from the outset, and has been one of the first States to ratify the Treaty. We are now ready to engage with all relevant partners for its implementation and universalization. We welcome the successful outcome of the first Conference of States Parties held in Cancún last August.
Mr. Chair,

We are fully committed to international efforts to address the humanitarian, socio-economic, and security impacts of conventional weapons. We welcome the Dubrovnik Political Declaration and Action Plan adopted by the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We also strongly support the Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention and the Maputo Action Plan adopted last year. We have consistently worked at national and international levels to implement both Conventions. I am indeed pleased to announce that our cluster munitions stockpile destruction process will be completed at the end of this month, five years ahead of the deadline established by the CCM.

The CCW provides a unique forum to address issues relating to conventional weapons use and IHL. We welcome the CCW discussions on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), whose growing political and humanitarian impact, particularly on civilian populations, is cause for great concern. We also highly appreciated the Meeting of Experts’ debates on emerging technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), which started to shed light on the multiple technical, legal, ethical, and military aspects that these involve.

Since 2001, Italy has supported mine action through a special Fund that has to date disbursed a total amount of 45 million Euros. We have also provided technical and material assistance, including training, as well as conducted direct demining activities. In the implementation of mine action programs, we support the creation of partnerships at all levels, and the involvement of civil society.

We view mine action as part of States’ development efforts rather than as a strictly humanitarian concern. Therefore, the full realization of victims’ political rights, their economic inclusion, and adequate social protection must be promoted together with mine action.

Gender is a central theme for us. The specific needs of women must be taken into consideration when addressing the impacts of cluster munitions, mines, and ERW. More broadly, we must ensure that relevant gender and ALL diversity aspects are taken into account.

Mr. Chair,

Small arms and light weapons remain primary in any of today’s armed conflicts. Italy, therefore, remains committed to the effective implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW, the International Tracing Instrument, and the UN Firearms Protocol.

Thank you, Mr Chair.