



I T A L Y

2015 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE

**THIRD SESSION OF THE
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
CLUSTER III ISSUES**

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR VINICIO MATI**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

(NEW YORK, MAY 5th 2014)

Check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the European Union. Let me therefore add only a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Italy fully supports the inalienable right of all NPT Parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with the Treaty's provisions. At the same time, it is worth reiterating that any peaceful use of nuclear energy should be a responsible one, as the exercise of any right always implies responsibilities and obligations. This is even truer in the field of non-proliferation. Strengthening the global non-proliferation regime and ensuring fair and responsible access to the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies must go together and complement each other.

To this end, supporting the IAEA's work is crucial. Italy is a major contributor to the Agency's regular budget and actively supports it through financial contributions to the Nuclear Security Fund and to the Technical Cooperation Fund.

Mr. Chairman,

Several States and international organizations gathered recently in The Hague to move a step forward in the strengthening of nuclear security. At the Third Nuclear Security Summit, Italy submitted a joint statement on Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres/Centres of Excellence to reaffirm that education and training are crucial to the strengthening of capacity building and security culture. They are crucial to maintaining high-level and

well-trained national technical experts and to the exchange of information and best practices among States.

The Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres Network aims at strengthening international and regional cooperation to promote nuclear security education and training. It also encourages the IAEA and other stakeholders to work with and to support the further development of nuclear security training, exploring the synergies between education and training that such centres can provide for national, regional and global nuclear security. Recognising the importance of avoiding duplication and overlap, it also encourages regional cooperation initiatives to facilitate greater information sharing and the harmonization of respective capabilities between individual centres in particular areas.

Mr. Chairman,

Increasingly over the past few years, Italy has paid special attention to education, training and institutional capacity building as essential elements for an effective safety and security infrastructure. The International School on Nuclear Security established in 2010 with the IAEA and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste is holding now its fourth annual training course. The School is highly regarded by the participants from both developing and emerging countries. The courses provided professionals involved in the nuclear security sector with knowledge of the international legal framework on nuclear security, raising awareness on illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive material. It enables young professionals, in particular from developing countries, to acquire relevant knowledge that is crucial to improve national nuclear security and contribute to the responsible exercise of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me finally recall that under the framework of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, Italy and the United States have jointly completed the removal of a significant amount of excess highly enriched uranium and separated plutonium from Italy. We plan to continue to work to eliminate additional stock of special nuclear material.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.