



**Statement by H. E. Ambassador Vinicio Mati**  
**Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**  
*Geneva, February 10, 2015*

Mr. President,

let me first of all thank you for your efforts to give new impetus to the activities of the Conference on Disarmament.

We appreciated your commitment to resume the normative work of the CD.

As I said in my previous interventions, in the framework of the Disarmament Machinery, it is of outmost importance for Italy to preserve the role of the CD on promoting substantive negotiations related to disarmament and non-proliferation and to overcome its current deadlock.

Therefore we note with regret that no consensus was achieved on your proposal on a Programme of Work but nothing excludes that we can continue our efforts in this direction during the current session of the CD.

The fact that the proposal has not been approved also does not prevent the Conference from carrying out substantive discussions on its agenda items.

This was also our main objective last year. Despite the fact that we failed to adopt the programme of work, we cannot afford to spare efforts in order to allow the CD to carry on its activities and to accomplish its duties.

In this prospect we welcome your initiative to promote also discussions on the relationship between the Conference on Disarmament and the Civil Society.

On this issue we reaffirm the importance that we attach to the strengthening of the dialogue with all the relevant actors of the Civil Society and to their contribution to the activities of the CD.

Italy strongly believes that the Conference would only benefit from a greater interaction with Civil Society, under appropriate modalities.

This would enable the CD to receive valuable external inputs and expertise, and thereby to advance on its work.

In this vein we welcomed the initiative proposed by the Acting Secretary General Michael Møller to convene an informal CD/Civil Society forum next March.

We are looking forward to this meeting also to have a feedback on the opportunity to organize it as a recurring event of the CD in order to allow greater and more interactions with the Civil Society.

We hope this initiative will represent a first concrete and constructive step in the right direction providing an opportunity to start a more inclusive and intensive dialogue with the Representatives of the Civil Society.

We think that the CD should have a fresh look at this matter.

I see the need to be better aware on how civil society views the issues we are debating in this forum in order to assess its expectations and to identify ideas that could provide helpful to our work within the Disarmament Machinery.

On the other hand, it is equally important to allow also Civil Society to be better informed about our position and concerns.

In this prospect, we appreciate your efforts to table a proposal on Civil Society participation at the Conference on Disarmament.

We have positively taken note of this new version of your proposal which, in our view, represents a step forward in relation to the previous one, and a good basis for deepening our reflection and continuing our discussion on this very important subject.

Italy will support your effort in this direction.

Thank you, Mr. President.