



***Informal meeting on agenda items 1 and 2 with general focus on the ban  
of the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons  
and other nuclear explosive devices***

**Statement by H. E. Ambassador Vinicio Mati**

**Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

***Geneva, June 4, 2014***

Mr. Coordinator ,

let me first of all join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your appointment as coordinator of this informal open-ended meeting.

We strongly appreciated the working plan outlined in your letter of May 21st and your valuable contribution on the different aspects of our discussions.

We share the view of those who consider that a Treaty banning the production of Fissile Materials represents an important element towards a world without nuclear weapons.

Therefore I don't think I am saying anything new in reaffirming that the start of negotiations on such a Treaty has represented for many years a priority of the Italian foreign policy in the field of disarmament.

I would like to recall for example, in this respect, that in 2009 and 2011 my predecessor chaired, here in the Conference on Disarmament, informal consultations on this topic.

Italy, furthermore, has been included in the Group of Governmental Experts set up early this year, following the General Assembly Resolution 67/53, to seek possible elements for a future Treaty banning the production of Fissile Materials for Nuclear Weapons.

In May 2013, as a follow-up of this Resolution, Italy submitted to the UN Office for Disarmament its views on a Treaty addressing five issues: definitions, verifications, nuclear fuel, production plants and stockpiles.

There are many reasons why Italy has been interested in starting negotiations. Like most other countries that voted in favour of the creation of the GGE, we share the belief that the Treaty has the potential to play a key role in furthering nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, to the undoubted benefit of international stability.

In this prospect we reaffirm our commitment, in accordance to Art. VI of the NPT, to create the conditions for a safer world for all without nuclear weapons, by a general engagement to move forward with a building blocks approach aiming at identifying elements, instruments or treaties dealing with specific aspects of nuclear disarmament.

Two of the most recent NPT Review Conferences mention the conclusion of an FMCT as one of the signatories' agreed goals.

The reports on the GGE's work have shown that at least three areas within a future FMCT, such as scope, definitions and verifications, appear to be so closely related than it would be impossible to address them in a completely independent way.

Stockpiles remain the real stumbling block. The views expressed so far in the Conference on Disarmament, unsurprisingly, have been radically different, but in this line of work nothing is ever black or white.

On that point we hope that our discussion will lead to possible compromise solutions.

Italy is not participating with pre-conceived ideas. Our approach is open and pragmatic; we have expressed our view and we are eager to listen to others.

There is not just one solution to achieve constructive results.

From our perspective a solution should be viewed as the sum of essentially three factors: the scope of the Treaty (in other words whether it will take into consideration stocks and, if so, how), its verification provisions and the definitions adopted, *in primis* those concerning fissile materials as such.

Italy is confident this exercise will enable us to identify a series of possible solutions to the various main topics within an FMCT. At that point it is our duty, as Conference of Disarmament members, to evaluate if there are the conditions to move ahead in order to initiate formal negotiations.

Thank you.