



Statement by H. E. Ambassador Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, January 20, 2015

Mr. President,

let me first congratulate you, on the assumption of this important responsibility. I wish you a successful outcome of your Presidency and assure you of the full support of the Italian delegation. I would also like to join the previous speakers in welcoming the commitment of the Secretary General of the United Nations to the Conference on Disarmament. We share and fully support his appeal to resume the substantive activities of the CD.

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the European Union. There are some issues I would like to recall from a national point of view.

Mr. President,

we believe that effective multilateralism and the contribution of UN Disarmament Machinery are crucial in the field of disarmament. The CD remains the unique forum established and specifically devoted to negotiate multilateral Treaties. Therefore, from our perspective, it is of utmost importance to preserve its primary role on promoting substantive negotiations related to disarmament and non-proliferation, and to overcome its current deadlock.

I agree with those who observed that the picture which emerged from the 2014 session is not completely satisfactory. After many years of stalemate the CD did not succeed to agree on a negotiating mandate on the core issues of the Agenda. Nevertheless we cannot deny that, last year, encouraging developments emerged from the general framework of our activities and we think that it would be appropriate and constructive to build on and continue to focus on these positive elements as we approach this forthcoming session.

In this vein, the double track approach we decided to adopt last year allowed us, despite the current stalemate, to carry on the activities of the CD and the substantial discussions we had on the different points of the Agenda under the Schedule of Activities gave us the opportunity to further deepen and better understand the positions of the Member States.

The IWG also gave us the opportunity to have a fruitful exchange on different options on how to overcome the difficulties to produce a substantive programme of work. Unfortunately there was no consensus on the adoption of the IWG report but we are convinced that this report remains a good basis for continuing our discussion this year. In that paper there are different options worthy of being further explored.

Mr. President,

the commencement of the negotiation of a Treaty banning the production of Fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices remains for us a clear priority. On this point we welcome the substantive and fruitful discussions held within the Group of Governmental Experts and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Ambassador Elissa Golberg of Canada for her excellent work and effective leadership. We are looking forward to the conclusion of this exercise and to the Report of the Chair of the GGE in order to further advance the work of the CD on this issue.

Furthermore we would like to underline the need to assure an effective follow-up to the suggestions put forward by the Acting Secretary-General Michael Moller, in particular the opportunity to discuss on how to update the working methods of the CD and the relation between the CD and the civil society, without losing sight of his other interesting proposals. In this context we are looking forward to the Informal CD and Civil Society Forum which will take place on March 19th. We would be grateful to the Secretariat for further information on the development of this event.

Mr. President,

as already underlined by other speakers this year we need to focus our collective efforts on a successful outcome of the Review Conference of the Nuclear

Non-Proliferation Treaty. In our view the NPT remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the achievement of nuclear disarmament.

We want to reaffirm our commitment to create the conditions for a safer world for all without nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT. We should redouble our commitment to achieve progress based on considering the three pillars of the NPT as mutually reinforcing and in this prospect we reaffirm our full support to the implementation of the 2010 Action Plan which includes concrete steps on nuclear disarmament, non proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

In our view it is essential to participate constructively and substantively to all relevant discussions, including in the framework of the CD, on nuclear disarmament with a clear focus on practical and effective measures and to avoid creating shortcuts that will not contribute to mutually reinforce the goals of disarmament and non proliferation. We are convinced that we have to pursue the security of a world without nuclear weapons as the final achievement of the NPT and not as an alternative to it.

On these different points I can assure you, Mr. President, that my delegation is willing to actively participate to our collective endeavour.

Thank you for your attention.