



Statement by H. E. Ambassador Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, 21 January 2014

Mr. President,

At the outset let me congratulate you, on the assumption of this important responsibility. We wish you all the best in carrying out your task and we assure you the full support of this delegation.

As next Presidency, we are convinced that the full and coordinated engagement of all the 6 Presidencies would be a key factor in resuming the activities of the CD.

There is an urgent need to bring the CD back to work, as strongly stated again by the UNSG, Ban-ki moon, in his previous intervention to which Italy fully subscribes.

I would also like to welcome and express my congratulations to Mr. Michael Moller on his appointment as acting Secretary General of the Conference on Disarmament. I am sure that his personal capabilities and outstanding competences will be of great help for our work.

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

Mr. President,

We continue to believe that effective multilateralism is crucial in the field of disarmament and, in this context, the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament remains of paramount importance. We strongly believe that its continuous stalemate undermines its credibility. The Conference on Disarmament should resume its work without any further delay. We hope that this will be the case in the current annual session. In this

framework, the adoption of a Programme of Work should be our main concern and all of us should be deeply engaged in reaching this goal. We think that, to this end, all delegations should exert flexibility to the maximum extent possible.

This is the reason why last year we supported the proposal of the previous Secretary General, Mr. Tokayev, to establish an Informal Working Group with a mandate to produce a programme of work robust in substance and progressive over time in implementation.

Unfortunately the discussions conducted in the framework of the IWG showed that further negotiations are needed for a Programme of Work to be adopted.

In the mean time, we stand ready to support any constructive solution that can allow the CD to carry on its activities.

We should not spare any effort in the attempt to go the extra mile and meeting the expectations of the international community in creating this forum.

We have a great responsibility, let us show that we are worthy of the trust that we have been granted.

I can assure you, Mr. President, that my delegation is willing to actively participate to this endeavour.

Thank you for your attention.