



**Statement by the Delegation of Italy
to the Conference on Disarmament**
Geneva, 30 June 2016

Mr. President,

At the outset, since it is the first time that my delegation takes the floor under your Presidency, let me congratulate you on your assumption of this responsibility. I would like to assure you of Italy's full support and cooperation. I also join previous delegations in thanking the Ambassador of Norway and in bidding farewell to him.

Let me also express our deepest condolences to the Turkish Delegation for the horrific terrorist attack of last Tuesday. We join you in mourning the lives lost in this unacceptable, barbaric act.

Mr. President,

Italy has always attached the greatest importance to the work of the Conference on Disarmament, and from our perspective it is of utmost importance to preserve and relaunch its primary role as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, in line with the words which the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs addressed to us last Tuesday. In this prospect, agreement on a Programme of Work is an essential goal.

After a long stalemate, we consider the four Programme of Work proposals put forward in the current CD session as a sign that delegations continue to invest in the CD and believe in its capacity to fulfil its mandate.

Mr. President,

my delegation has looked with an open mind and a constructive approach to all the proposals that have been advanced, and has declared its readiness to support any constructive effort aiming at any reasonable and forward-looking agreement.

In particular, we appreciated and supported the contribution made by the United States with their proposal for a mandate for the CD to negotiate a Treaty dealing with fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. My delegation, as the overwhelming majority of the CD members, feels that time is ripe to start negotiations on such a Treaty. We regret that it was not possible to reach a consensus on that proposal.

Subsequently we greatly welcomed the draft PoW proposed by the United Kingdom which, focusing primarily on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues, was fully in line with our priorities.

Allow me to mention that in our view also the proposal put forward by the Russian Federation deserved proper consideration, since it was aimed at dealing with the extremely relevant issue of countering chemical and biological terrorism.

In light of the above, and at this point in time, we cannot but appreciate your initiative to table for action the draft PoW embodied in document CD/WP.595, as an attempt to put the CD back on track, especially since the time available in the current session is running out.

Thank you.