



Statement by H. E. Ambassador Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, 4 August 2016

Mr. President,

Since it is the first time that I take the floor under your Presidency, let me congratulate you on your appointment and reiterate the assurance of my delegation's full support.

As a country deeply convinced of the central role of the Conference on Disarmament, Italy has looked with an open mind and a constructive approach to all the proposals for a Programme of Work that have been tabled during this session.

We believe that the fact that four PoW proposals were presented was a good and strong sign of the determination of the CD Members to bring this forum back to work in line with its mandate.

We commend the Presidencies for their endeavours in this regard, and deeply regret that so far, and despite these efforts, it has not been possible to reach consensus on a PoW.

In this regard, we will give close consideration to the revised proposal put forward today by the Russian delegation.

As I already had the opportunity to state, the proposal addresses an issue that is extremely relevant. We are, therefore, ready to engage in the discussion on biological and chemical terrorism, provided there is consensus on this matter among the membership.

Finally, Mr President, let me express our appreciation for your initiative concerning a substantive discussion, seminar-style, to be held next week.

While the Conference was born as a negotiating body, we remain convinced of its value also in allowing in-depth exchanges of views on its agenda items.

Thank you.