



ITALY

2017 NPT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

**CLUSTER II
REGIONAL ISSUES**

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR VINICIO MATI**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

(VIENNA, 9 MAY 2017)

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Mr. Chair,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

Italy recognizes the progresses made so far in addressing proliferation risks. At the same time, we cannot but remain seriously concerned by the existence of proliferation programs and networks. The difficulty of securing sensitive materials and the risk that terrorists might get access to them remain major challenges to deal with.

Italy condemns in the strongest terms the DPRK's ballistic missile and nuclear tests, which clearly violate its international obligations and represent an increasing threat to regional and international security, peace and the global non-proliferation regime. In our current capacity as Chair of the Security Council Resolution 1718 Committee, Italy is supporting efforts worldwide to properly implement the set of restrictive measures adopted by the Security Council. The DPRK must immediately and fully comply with all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, abandon all its existing nuclear and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner, and return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards.

Mr. Chair,

We are all aware that we have to face serious proliferation crises. At the same time, let me acknowledge that also in this complex field, the international community has demonstrated that peaceful and effective solutions can be found – and have to be found.

In this vein, let me remind the landmark success represented by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action between the E3/EU+3 and Iran. We welcome the work done by the AIEA to monitor its implementation.

We believe that the full implementation of the JCPoA and of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 can foster international and regional security and encourage mutual trust between the parties involved. Full implementation of the JCPoA strongly underpins the overall non-proliferation architecture. With this in mind, we have undertaken the role of Facilitator for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, being committed to helping smooth and productive communication among the major stakeholders. We support efforts by all Parties to ensure that the JCPoA continues to provide benefits for all and remains a success story in line with the clear progress achieved so far more than one year since the implementation day.

Mr. Chair,

Italy highly values the importance of nuclear-weapon-free zones for peace and security, in accordance with the 1999 UN Disarmament Commission guidelines. We therefore commend the contribution of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones to attaining these goals, and call on nuclear-weapon States to sign and ratify the relevant protocols of the Treaties establishing such zones.

Because of its geopolitical position, Italy is part of the wider Mediterranean area and very close to the Middle East. Our history is intimately connected to this Region. We are very sensitive to developments in this context also from the point of view of disarmament and non-proliferation, and we follow them very closely.

We reaffirm our strong commitment to a successful outcome of the process leading to the full implementation of the 1995 NPT Review Conference Resolution on the Middle East, and the related practical steps endorsed by the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Thus, Italy reiterates its support to the convening of a Conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction - to be attended by all States of the region on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by them - as decided by the 2010 Review Conference.

In this perspective, we continue to call on all States in the region, which have not yet done so, to accede to the NPT, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, to sign and ratify the CTBT, and to conclude a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, the Additional Protocol and, as applicable, a modified Small Quantities Protocol with the IAEA.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.