



**Statement by Ambassador Vinicio Mati  
Permanent Representative of Italy  
to the Conference on Disarmament  
*Geneva, 1 June 2017***

Mr. Chair,

at the outset, let me express our gratitude for all your efforts. We have greatly appreciated your engagement to explore any possible way to bring the CD back to work. Rest assured of Italy's ongoing support and cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

Unfortunately, the issue of the relaunch of this body is still open and it remains on the table. We all should make any possible effort to overcome a stalemate that last since more than two decades, especially in a moment in which we see that some key topics of the CD agenda are moving away from the Conference.

Our objective remains to strengthen the UN Disarmament Machinery and not to weaken it.

In this vein, we stand ready to support any constructive initiative which aims at allowing the CD to carry on its activities.

In the absence of a consensus on one of the different proposals for a Programme of Work which were tabled in the CD, we supported since the very beginning the decision on the "Way Ahead Working Group".

In this framework, our aim remains to identify issues for substantive work under the agenda; to find common ground for a programme of work with a negotiating mandate; and to consider steps for a possible way ahead.

To this goal, we support the initiative of having substantive discussions on all the items on the agenda of the CD, on the basis of the document you circulated earlier this week, for which we thank you once again.