



Statement by Ambassador Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, 20th June 2017

Mr. Facilitator,

At the outset, I would like to join other delegations in congratulating you on your appointment as friend of the Chair, and in thanking you for your introductory remarks and for the document you have circulated in order to structure today's discussions.

Let me assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation stand high in the CD agenda and are among the priorities of Italy's foreign policy. For this reason, we are particularly satisfied that the Conference is resuming its substantive discussions also on these topics, especially in a moment in which we are witnessing that many key issues related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation risk to move away from consensual processes.

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

Mr. Facilitator,

we remain committed to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, to reach through a process in which the security interests of all Countries are addressed besides humanitarian aspects.

In our view, nuclear disarmament cannot be detached by non-proliferation.

In this prospect, we reaffirm the centrality of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and of its three mutually reinforcing pillars.

We firmly believe in a concrete and progressive approach to nuclear disarmament, focused on effective measures, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT.

Mr. Facilitator,

Among those measures, a key priority remains the immediate commencement within the CD of negotiations of a Treaty dealing with fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

This would allow us not only to make a fundamental step to advance both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation goals, but also to resume our substantive work within the Conference on Disarmament.

In this spirit, Italy was a member of the Group of Governmental Experts, and has actively contributed to its works.

We value the GGE report, distributed to the Conference on Disarmament, as a constructive contribution to this debate and as a useful and as a very useful basis, on which we can build for our future endeavours.

We stand ready, with an open mind and a constructive spirit, to support any productive effort to find a common ground and to encourage the early commencement of negotiations without preconditions in the CD.

In this vein, we welcome the establishment of the High Level Expert Preparatory Group. We hope that the Group will make a meaningful contribution in this direction.

As for the current discussion, we will provide more detailed remarks in the upcoming sessions.

Thank you, Mr. Facilitator