



Statement by Ambassador Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, 23rd June 2017

Mr. Facilitator,

first of all, let me thank you for your efforts in guiding these very fruitful discussions.

I hope that the outcome of this constructive debate will contribute to further clarifications of the various aspects we will have to deal with, in order to negotiate a future Treaty.

Mr. Facilitator,

Our debate has once again confirmed that there is a widespread will to start negotiations on a Treaty dealing with fissile material within the CD, even though a consensus on this point has not yet been reached.

Discouraged by the long stalemate of the CD's works, some delegations might be tempted to find alternative options to our Conference. However, should this be the case, we are afraid that the CD would be definitely marginalized and side-lined.

While sharing this concern, and the frustration felt by many delegations, we continue to believe that the central role of the CD should be preserved, and that a Treaty dealing with fissile material should be negotiated within this forum.

In this prospect, we stand ready, with an open mind and a constructive spirit, to support any productive effort to encourage the search for a common ground and the early commencement of a negotiating process without preconditions on this issue.

On the critical point of the mandate, we continue to consider the Shannon mandate as a possible basis for the way ahead. In our interpretation, its structure makes the Mandate flexible enough to allow starting possible negotiations without prejudging the positions of those countries in favor of addressing the issue of existing stocks.

At the same time, we see the need to make an effort of greater flexibility and creativity in our approach on this critical point so as to involve all concerned States and contribute to unblocking the long-standing stalemate of the Conference.

We believe that we should continue to work in order to bridge the different views and thus favor the emergence of a common ground, so that negotiations can start as soon as possible.

In this vein, we are convinced that continuing discussions in the CD will be extremely useful.

At the same time, we look forward for the meaningful contribution that the High Level Expert Preparatory Group will make in this directionj.

Thank you, Mr. Facilitator