



**Statement by Ambassador Vinicio Mati**  
**Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**  
*Geneva, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017*

Mr. Chair,

Before specifically addressing the topics you brought to our attention for today's debate, let me reiterate once again that Italy fully shares the goal of a peaceful and secure world free of nuclear weapons.

Being well aware of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons' use, we are fully engaged in achieving effective progress towards "Global Zero", in a way that promotes international stability and is based on the principle of undiminished security for all.

We believe that relevant actions should focus on practical and effective measures, as steps of a progressive approach to nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT.

Mr. Chair,

As I stated yesterday, the CD has a key role to play in promoting our shared goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Therefore, we are convinced that a renewed commitment by all member States to relaunch the role of the Conference on Disarmament will be a central block in the path towards a nuclear-weapon free world. In particular, the CD should continue and deepen its substantive work on all the issues in its agenda, especially the nuclear-related ones.

In this regard, a key priority for Italy remains the immediate commencement within the CD of negotiations of a Treaty dealing with fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices without preconditions. In this regard, we welcome the High Level Expert Preparatory Group established by UNGA Resolution 71/259. Pending the conclusion of such a Treaty, we believe that all relevant States should abide by a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

Italy also believes that the CD has a significant role to play on the issue of "Negative Security Assurances" and could give a decisive contribution to the ongoing debate on this topic, within the context of an agreed, comprehensive and balanced programme of work. Italy supports its continued engagement to discuss all aspects of this issue, as well as its endeavors directed to explore the possibility of arrangements aiming to strengthen NSAs, not excluding through an international legally binding instrument.

In the '90s, the CD was able to negotiate the “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”. Its entry into force remains crucial. Therefore, Italy calls upon all States that have not yet done so and, in particular, the remaining eight Annex-2 States, to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay. In the meantime, the resolve of all relevant States to abide by their respective moratoriums on nuclear tests continues to be essential.

Mr. Chair,

Progress on the topic of Nuclear Disarmament Verification can also make a critical contribution to advancing nuclear disarmament. In this vein, we look forward to the work of the Group of Governmental Experts which will be established on the basis of UNGA Resolution n. 71/67, which we co-sponsored.

Since the NPT is the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, I would also like to mention that 2017 marked the beginning of a new review cycle of the Treaty. The Preparatory Committee held in Vienna last May started the cycle on a positive note, since it showed that all delegations are determined to act in order to strengthen the NPT, to promote its universalization, and to achieve the full implementation of its three pillars as well as of the 2010 Action Plan. It is now important that all States continue their genuine efforts to achieve a consensual outcome at the 2020 Review Conference.

Before concluding, Mr. Chair,

Allow me to reiterate once again that Italy remains actively engaged in promoting the goal of nuclear disarmament. We believe that – notwithstanding differences among the various possible approaches - nuclear disarmament remains a common and shared objective.

Thus, we should concentrate on a responsible and constructive approach. Progress towards the shared goal of global zero will require States focusing on common ground and working together. We need inclusive and consensual processes. In this regard, we highly value the contribution that the CD could pay in this direction.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.