



Statement by H. E. Ambassador Gianfranco Incarnato
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, 25 June 2018

Subsidiary Body 1
(Nuclear Disarmament)

Mr. Coordinator,

Let me start by congratulating you on your appointment and assuring you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Let me also reiterate that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are among the main priorities of Italy's foreign policy.

Being aware of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons' use, we fully share the goal of a peaceful and secure world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Coordinator,

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) remains the overarching norm on which all nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures are based. Disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes.

Through its Article VI, the NPT provides the only realistic legal framework to attain a world without nuclear weapons, in a way that promotes international stability and is based on the principle of undiminished security for all.

We remain convinced that the goal of "global zero" can be attained only through a progressive approach, based on concrete and effective measures, resulting in an effective, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament.

We also believe that any process aiming for the elimination of nuclear weapons requires the substantive and constructive involvement of all relevant actors, according to a consensus-based approach, in order to be effective.

Mr Coordinator,

The CD has a key role to play in promoting our shared goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, a key priority for Italy remains the immediate commencement within the Conference of negotiations of a Treaty dealing with fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices without preconditions.

We welcome the successful conclusion of the work of the High Level Expert Preparatory Group established by UNGA Resolution 71/259, and look forward to the upcoming briefing on its results later this week. We are confident that the Group's work will provide fruitful input for efforts towards an FMCT within the CD. 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.

The CD has a significant role to play also on the issue of Negative Security Assurances. We welcome the productive discussions we held on this issue within Subsidiary Body 4, and continue to support the possible elaboration of recommendations dealing with all aspects of NSAs, not excluding an internationally 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.

Finally, Mr Coordinator, Italy values all initiatives undertaken in the field of nuclear disarmament verification, also as important tools to build trust and confidence among nuclear and non-nuclear weapon States. We support the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification and we welcome the beginning of the work of the Group of Governmental Experts to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament, established by UNGA Resolution n. 71/67 that we co-sponsored.

Thank you.