



I T A L Y

2019 NPT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

CLUSTER II ISSUES

GENERAL

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY

TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

(NEW YORK, 29 APRIL - 10 MAY 2019)

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Mr. Chair,

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

Italy remains fully committed to effective multilateral action against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Despite the efforts made, the existence of proliferation programmes and networks, the difficulty of securing sensitive materials and the risk that terrorists might get access to them remain major challenges for the international community to deal with.

In this regard, let me reiterate once again the centrality of the NPT as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, as well as the necessity to promote its universalisation and strengthen its implementation.

The IAEA's system of safeguards is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. Italy supports the strengthening of the IAEA safeguards system. We continue to call for the universalization, without delay, of Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols, which constitute the current verification standard.

Italy has firmly supported the continued evolution of safeguards as exemplified by the development of the State-level Concept (SLC), and its consistent and universal implementation.

Mr. Chair,

We highly appreciate the contribution made by multilateral export control regimes to the goal of preventing proliferation.

We also underscore the importance of confidence and security building measures in contributing to the global efforts to curb proliferation risks. In this vein, we support the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation as a widely subscribed multilateral instrument that aims at delegitimizing ballistic missile proliferation.

Mr. Chair,

Italy supports the inalienable right of all States Parties to the NPT to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This right should be exercised according to the highest standards of safeguards, safety and security, to which we attach the utmost importance. Strengthening nuclear security is a priority for us. We highly value the global dialogue on this topic in different fora.

Mr. Chair,

Italy remains deeply concerned by the increasing risk of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of non-state actors, particularly in relation to terrorist acts. In this respect, we strongly support full and universal implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 and its follow on Resolutions.

We reiterate our support also for the universal and full implementation of all other relevant international instruments. In particular, we underline the importance of the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts on Nuclear Terrorism and we encourage all States to become Party to this Agreement and to comply fully with its provisions.

Italy deeply values the provisions of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials, as it enhances the scope of the Convention and expands cooperation among States in countering the risk of nuclear terrorism. Thus, it represents an essential step in strengthening nuclear security. We encourage the States Parties to the Convention that have not already done so to promptly ratify the Amendment.

In this field, we actively support some concrete, operational initiatives. In September 2018, for example, we organized a live naval exercise at the port of Catania in the framework of the Mediterranean Initiative of the Proliferation Security Initiative. The exercise, which saw the participation of 60 delegates from 25 countries, was the first event of this type in the context of the Mediterranean Initiative.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.