



Open-Ended Working Group on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Vinicio Mati,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

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Mr. Chair,

Let me join the previous speakers in thanking you for your commendable efforts in drafting a synthesis of our discussions of the February session of this Open-Ended Working Group.

We acknowledge the difficulty of your task, given the diversity of positions that were expressed, and the number of proposals that were advanced.

However, I feel obliged to share the same concerns on the document, already expressed by other delegations.

As the distinguished Dutch Ambassador pointed out in the statement delivered on behalf of the Countries that subscribed to the "Progressive Approach" paper, we are of the view that not all elements contained in it are properly reflected in your synthesis document.

Annex I, in particular, focuses only on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, omitting many other measures that were clearly included in the "Progressive Approach" paper, as well as reiterated by several delegations in their statements.

In addition we wonder why section IV of the synthesis paper contains draft recommendations, given that the related discussion has yet to take place. In light of this, we consider that this section is premature at this stage.

In light of the above, Mr. Chair, we hope that your synthesis paper will not represent an obstacle for a balanced continuation of our discussion but a way to facilitate the search for a common ground and a constructive dialogue within this process.