



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

May session - Panel III (additional measures to increase awareness and understanding of the complexity of and interrelationship between the wide range of humanitarian consequences that would result from any nuclear detonation)

Statement by the Italian Delegation Geneva, 4 May 2016

Mr. Chair,

First of all, let me thank the panelists for the interesting presentations they have delivered, as well as Ms. Thurlow for her testimony.

Italy fully shares the concern over the devastating impacts of nuclear weapons explosions on human beings as well as on the environment. Indeed, awareness of the continuing nuclear risks to humanity, and a desire for a peaceful world for future generations, underpin all our efforts for effective progress on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Together with the vast majority of States we strongly expressed our belief that the Humanitarian Impacts initiative has been extremely valuable in renewing the global focus on, and raising awareness of, the catastrophic consequences associated with nuclear weapons' use, also thanks to the active contribution of civil society organizations and research institutions.

In line with this, we participated in the Humanitarian Impacts initiative conferences held in Norway, Mexico, and Austria.

Mr. Chair,

Italy is committed to seeking a safer world for all and to creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the goals of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, in a way that promotes international stability, and is based on the principle of undiminished security for all.

At the same time, we firmly believe that the hard, practical work necessary to bring us closer to a world free of nuclear weapons must be conducted on the basis of humanitarian concerns but also with a view to preserving the adequate conditions of stability and security in the international environment.

In addition, we reiterate that eliminating nuclear weapons will be possible only through substantive and constructive engagement with nuclear weapons States.

Progress towards the shared goal of global zero will require States to focus on common ground and to work together to prevent the use of nuclear weapons and their proliferation.

It will also require promoting effective nuclear disarmament through the measures that we had the opportunity to outline both nationally and jointly with other States in February and during this week.

These, which make up the so-called Progressive Approach, are firmly grounded in the legal framework of the NPT, and many were already included in the 2010 NPT Action Plan whose full implementation remains our priority.

Thank you, Mr Chair