



Statement by Ambassador Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, 30 June 2017

Mr. Facilitator,

First of all, I would like to thank you for your efforts in guiding these very fruitful discussions.

As these three sessions have confirmed, the CD has a significant role to play and could give a valuable contribution to this debate. Indeed, NSAs are one of the core items in the CD agenda and a renewed interest of the Conference on Disarmament in this topic could help relaunch its role within the UN Disarmament Machinery.

Mr. Facilitator,

When addressing the issue of the “way ahead” on NSAs, I would like to reiterate that Italy supports the CD’s continued engagement on this issue, for the reasons that I illustrated in the previous sessions, as well as its endeavors directed to explore the possibility of arrangements aiming to strengthen NSAs as concrete instruments to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

In our view, the Conference on Disarmament should, within the context of an agreed, comprehensive and balanced program of work, resume its substantive discussions on this topic, with a view to elaborating recommendations dealing with all its aspects, not excluding an internationally legally binding instrument.

At the same time, the idea of establishing a subsidiary body within the CD in order to further address this subject and elaborate on it should be given proper consideration, as one of the possible ways forward.

In this vein, the CD could work in order to identify the main elements of a possible international instrument on NSAs, also with the aim of bridging existing differences.

Among the various proposals put forward during our discussions, an interesting one could be the development of an inventory of elements of existing NSAs, which would undoubtedly represent an helpful basis for further work.

Thank you, Mr. Facilitator.