



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and International Cooperation

## **Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

### **Main Committee II statement**

**10<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Parties  
New York, 1-26 August 2022**

**Delivered by  
H.E. Mr. Leonardo Bencini,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
to the Conference on Disarmament**

Madam Chair,

Let me first of all congratulate you on your election as Chair of Main Committee II. I would also like to assure you of my Delegation's full support and cooperation.

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

Madam Chair,

Italy remains fully committed to effective multilateral action against the proliferation of nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Despite the efforts made, the existence of proliferation programmes and networks, the difficulty of securing sensitive materials and the risk that terrorist might get access to them continue to pose major challenges to international security.

In this regard, allow me to 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 - multilateral, impartial, qualified and effective as it is - remains one of the core components of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT.

Italy consistently supports the efforts of the IAEA to implement worldwide its system of safeguards, based on the current verification standard of a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement together with an Additional Protocol and, as applicable, a modified Small Quantities Protocol.

We commend the IAEA for its constant efforts in performing its verification mandate under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons with utmost diligence, competence and impartiality. The Agency's system of safeguards is crucial to ensure the peaceful character of nuclear activities and - as such - it is an indispensable means to preserving and fostering global security.

In this regard, Italy condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unjustified and unprovoked aggression against Ukraine which poses severe and direct threats to the safety and security of Ukraine's nuclear facilities and impedes the IAEA from fully and safely conducting safeguards verification activities in Ukraine. In particular, we are very concerned about the increasingly alarming situation in the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear power Plant.

Madam Chair,

In the context of international efforts aimed at strengthening the non-proliferation architecture, we strongly hope that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear program can be swiftly resumed. We urge Iran to return to fully implement its obligations under the JCPOA without delay and to recede from its activities related to uranium enrichment, stockpiling of nuclear material, together with the further development, at a faster pace, of technical capabilities. For Italy, the JCPOA remains a key element of the global non-proliferation architecture and a successful achievement of multilateral diplomacy.

The repeated ballistic missile launches by the DPRK undermine regional and international peace and security and are a matter of grave concern. We urge the DPRK to refrain from further provocations and to take concrete steps towards a complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. We therefore call on Pyongyang to engage in credible negotiations in this respect and to comply with relevant UNSC Resolutions, to return to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to sign and ratify the CTBT and to resume its collaboration with the IAEA. In the meantime, the international sanctions regime needs to remain in place and be effectively implemented, sustaining the negotiating process towards this goal.

Madam Chair,

Italy highly values the importance of nuclear-weapon-free zones for peace and security, in accordance with the 1999 UN Disarmament Commission guidelines. We therefore commend the contribution of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones to attaining these

goals, and call on nuclear weapon States to sign and ratify the relevant protocols of the Treaties establishing such zones.

Italy has consistently supported the convening of a Conference on the establishment of a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons in the Middle East on the basis of arrangements freely agreed among all States of the region, and will continue to support efforts aimed at creating a conducive atmosphere and an inclusive process leading to the establishment of such a zone.

Madam Chair,

We highly appreciate the contribution made by multilateral export control regimes to the goal of preventing proliferation. Italy is an active member in all export control regimes in order to help ensure that nuclear-related exports do not lead to 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.

Madam 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 regard, we support the full and universal implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) and its follow-on Resolutions to increase national capacities in the implementation of non-proliferation measures.

We reiterate our support for the universal and full implementation of all 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 also deeply values the entry into force 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 urge the States Parties to the Convention that have not already done so to promptly ratify the Amendment.

Italy would also like to emphasize that NATO's nuclear sharing arrangements have been and continue to be fully consistent with the NPT and fully compatible with the NPT obligations of NATO Allies. Let me therefore recall that these arrangements were

already in place when the Treaty entered into force in 1970. They were made clear to the delegations that negotiated the Treaty and publicly understood by all States Parties to the NPT, with the result that NATO's nuclear sharing arrangements were seamlessly integrated into the NPT.

I thank you, Madam Chair.