



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

Geneva, 4 February 2014

Mr. President,

As one of the P6 and next Presidency let me first of all thank you for your strong engagement and for your efforts aiming at exploring the prospects to forge a consensus on a Programme of Work and to find other possible ways to put the Conference on Disarmament in a position to move forward and to overcome its current difficulties.

In our view the adoption of a Programme of Work with a negotiating mandate remains the best way to resume the CD after a too long stalemate in order to relaunch the relevance and the credibility of this forum as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament.

I have already expressed at the opening meeting the expectation of my Country with regard to the activity of the CD during the 2014 session.

The *raison d'être* of this forum is to negotiate and no endeavors should be spared in order to seek the path towards renewed disarmament negotiations, as the UN Secretary General said in his address to the Conference.

But we are aware that this is not an easy task. We need to be realistic and we deem it appropriate and necessary to look for all possible constructive solutions that could allow the CD to make progress on all the topics on the

agenda, in a pragmatic way, while continuing to research an agreement on a Programme of Work.

In this framework we consider that the establishment of the Informal Working Group last year was an innovative attempt and an encouraging step reflecting the willingness of member States to overcome the current stalemate.

In this vein, Mr. President, we fully agree on your proposal to reestablish the IWG, as soon as we can, on the basis of the decision adopted last August. Unfortunately last year the decision came very late and the IWG had not enough time to accomplish its work. We hope that this decision will allow it to fully explore its mandate.

In parallel, we are convinced that structured discussions on the topics on the agenda can contribute to lay the foundation for future negotiations.

We look forward to the formulation of a schedule of activities, in a spirit of transparency and in close consultation with all regional groups and the active involvement of the whole membership of the CD.

The constructive spirit and flexibility shown by member States last year is still required to start a fruitful 2014 session.

Thank you Mr. President.