



Permanent Mission of Italy
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Cluster 1: Nuclear Weapons

Italy fully shares the goal of a peaceful and secure world free of nuclear weapons and, in this respect, we restate our strong commitment to preserving and strengthening the disarmament and non-proliferation framework.

50 years after its entry into force, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the international disarmament regime, with its three mutually reinforcing pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament and promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Italy supports the efforts to use the remaining time in preparation of the Review Conference as an opportunity to build bridges between the States Parties and assess the substantial progress achieved so far in the framework of this historic Treaty.

The Treaty must be supported, upheld and preserved, especially in today's difficult environment. We therefore invite States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States, without delay and without conditions.

The NPT provides the only realistic legal framework to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, in a manner that promotes international stability consistent with the principle of undiminished security for all. This goal can only be achieved through a gradual approach, by taking effective measures – pursuant to Article VI of the NPT – that involve all the stakeholders in a consensus-based perspective.

We are striving for true progress on nuclear disarmament because of our deep concern over the potentially catastrophic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. One measure we are pursuing is the prompt entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The lack of progress on the CTBT should be of concern to the entire international community. As a staunch supporter of the Treaty, Italy invites all States that have not yet done so, particularly the remaining eight Annex-2 States, to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay. In the meantime, we call upon all States to continue to respect the voluntary moratorium on nuclear test explosions and to refrain from any action that could undermine the objective and purpose of the Treaty.

Another key priority is for the Conference on Disarmament to immediately start negotiations for a Treaty on fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Such a treaty would be a valuable new element of the international security architecture, which is under growing pressure today. Pending the conclusion of such a treaty, all States should abide by a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

Italy values all initiatives undertaken in the field of nuclear disarmament verification, as important tools to build trust and confidence among nuclear and non-nuclear weapon States. In this respect, we strongly support the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification and welcome the work conducted within the Group of Governmental Experts to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament.

We also wish to mention the potential of Negative Security Assurances and to reiterate our support for the establishment of Zones Free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction, particularly in the Middle East, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived and agreed among the States of the Region.

We stress the relevance of risk reduction, which can contribute to alleviating tensions and building the necessary trust and confidence, such as transparency and dialogue on nuclear doctrines and postures, military-to-military dialogues, hotline, "accident measures agreements" and notification of exercises, missile launch notifications and other data exchange agreements, consistently with the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan.

Nuclear weapon States bear fundamental responsibilities and we encourage them to seek further reductions in their nuclear arsenals, while enhancing transparency on their policies and doctrines. We are convinced that the goal of a nuclear weapon free world and an effective, verifiable, and irreversible nuclear disarmament can be attained only through an inclusive and progressive approach, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, based on concrete and effective measures. We welcome the strategic stability dialogue between the United States and the Russian Federation and we encourage them to seek further reductions to their arsenals, to extend the New START Treaty and to engage on other arms control arrangements, including with a view to their widening in terms of scope and participants.

The proliferation of nuclear weapons continues to pose a major threat to international security. The IAEA's system of safeguards is an essential component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. Italy supports the strengthening of the IAEA safeguards system, including universal adherence to comprehensive agreements and additional protocols.

In this context, Italy believes that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action remains a key element. The full implementation of the deal and of all provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 is crucial for regional and international security. We are gravely concerned by Iranian disengagement from the JCPoA and we urge Iran to return to full compliance without delay and to provide the IAEA with a full and timely cooperation with respect to all its safeguard-related commitments in order to clarify and resolve any pending issue. We welcome the Joint Statement of Iran and the IAEA dated 26 August and related developments on sites inspections. We are ready to support initiatives aimed at de-escalating the present tensions and restoring the JCPoA's integrity.

The repeated ballistic missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in violation of multiple UN Security Council Resolutions, deeply concern us. DPRK's intention to retain and further develop its nuclear and ballistic programmes represent a threat that we cannot ignore. We urge the DPRK to take concrete steps towards a complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization, in which the IAEA needs to play a key role. We therefore call on Pyongyang to engage in credible negotiations in this respect and to give tangible proof of its asserted willingness to denuclearize by returning to the NPT, signing and ratifying the CTBT and resuming 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.