



Statement by H. E. Ambassador Gianfranco Incarnato
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, 17 May 2018

Subsidiary Body 5 (agenda items 5, 6 and 7)

Mr. Coordinator,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I would like to congratulate you on your appointment and thank you for the documents you circulated to facilitate our preparations for this Group.

Mr. Coordinator,

Like others, Italy is well aware that the current security environment puts us in front of new and emerging issues, alongside traditional ones as captured by the core agenda items of the CD agenda. We also believe that such an agenda is already sufficiently inclusive, comprehensive and flexible to allow us to potentially address any relevant security issue. For this reason, we welcome continued discussions on items 5, 6 and 7.

In particular, we believe that in the framework of this Subsidiary Body it would be worth exploring how the Conference on Disarmament could contribute to addressing the impact of today's sweeping and rapid technological change on disarmament, as well as, more broadly, international peace and security.

In this regard, let me focus on three specific topics.

First, on cyber security issues, Italy remains committed to promoting a strategic framework for conflict prevention, cooperation and stability in cyberspace. This should consist of the recognition of the applicability of existing international law to State behaviour in cyberspace; the promotion of voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible State behaviour during peacetime; and the development and the implementation of practical cyber confidence building measures between States. The CD could provide one forum to exchange views on how best to advance on each of these points.

Second, last year, for the first time, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 72/28 on the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament. With this resolution, that was adopted by consensus and co-sponsored by Italy, the Assembly invited Member States "to continue efforts to apply developments in science and technology for disarmament-related purposes". While taking note that the Secretary-General was tasked to present a report at the next GA session on this issue, and without prejudice to any conclusions on the way ahead that such report may contain, we believe that the CD could usefully examine ways to translate resolution 72/28 into concrete action.

Finally, Italy continues to support, and actively participate in, discussions on the possible development of LAWS. We believe that the CCW, where these discussions have taken place so far with positive results, remains the most appropriate forum to address the issue.

Thank you.