



# ITALY



Statement by H.E. Ambassador Vinicio Mati,  
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament  
to the First Committee of the 70th UN General Assembly  
Thematic Discussion on Nuclear Weapons: FMCT

New York, October 2015

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Mr. Chair,

The early commencement of negotiations on a Treaty banning the production of fissile material within the Conference on Disarmament is one of the key priorities of Italy's foreign and security policy.

With many other States, we believe that the time is ripe for such negotiations, which have been on the international agenda for over twenty years, and which are in line with Action 15 of the NPT 2010 Action Plan and with decision 1864 of the Conference on Disarmament. Such a Treaty represents the next logical step for effective progress on nuclear disarmament.

Italy has actively engaged in the work of the GGE on the FMCT and highly welcomes its robust consensus report. This important achievement, together with other meaningful initiatives going in the same direction and the substantive discussions we had last year in the CD, confirms the level of maturity of this topic. With a balanced and pragmatic approach, the Group of Experts identified a wide range of potential elements of a future FMCT, analyzing all possible options on the table, and taking forward the substantive discussion on the issue. In so doing, the GGE has provided a constructive contribution to the ongoing debate and a useful and valuable resource for negotiators of a future Treaty.

We are aware that States' positions on some of the potential Treaty aspects are different; at the same time, we believe that the GGE report can help generate the necessary momentum to bridge existing divergent opinions.

Mr. Chair,

Resuming our substantive work within the Conference on Disarmament is an imperative. It is time for the CD to get back on track and resume its role as the only multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament issues. In this regard, Italy shares the need to advance with an open-minded and constructive spirit on the core items on the agenda of the Conference.

Among these items, our priority, which is overwhelmingly endorsed by the international community, remains the early commencement of negotiations on a Treaty banning the production of fissile material.

We are well aware of the complex and lengthy nature of any future negotiation on a FMCT. This notwithstanding, we stand ready to support any productive effort to find common ground and the early commencement of a negotiating process, without preconditions, on a FMCT that, we are convinced, will be a fundamental tool both for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.