



PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Vinicio Mati,  
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament  
to the First Committee of the 72nd UN General Assembly  
Nuclear Weapons**

**New York, 13 October 2017**

*Check against delivery*

Mr. Chair,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by Australia on behalf of a group of twenty-nine like-minded Countries. I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Italy fully shares the goal of a peaceful and secure world free of nuclear weapons.

Our utmost concern for the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons' use underpins our efforts for effective progress on nuclear disarmament.

We want to reaffirm the centrality of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which remains the cornerstone of the international regime for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We call upon States that have not yet done so to join the NPT as non-nuclear weapon States, without delay and without conditions.

We also consider it necessary to continue supporting, upholding and protecting the NPT in the difficult current environment. In this spirit, we are actively participating in the preparatory process leading to the 2020 Review Conference.

Mr. Chair,



The NPT provides the only realistic legal framework to attain a world without nuclear weapons, in a way that promotes international stability and is based on the principle of undiminished security for all.

We believe that this goal must be pursued in a step-by-step and verifiable way, based on effective measures, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, and implying the involvement of all relevant actors, in a perspective based on the research of consensus.

Mr. Chair,

Among the effective measures needed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons, the prompt entry into force of the “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty” is crucial. Italy calls upon all States that have not yet done so and, in particular, all the remaining eight Annex-2 States, to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay. We hope that UN Security Council resolution 2310, which Italy co-sponsored, can encourage further ratifications. In the meantime, Italy calls upon all States to respect the moratorium on nuclear test explosions, and to refrain from any action that would undermine the objective and purpose of the Treaty.

Another key priority for Italy is the immediate commencement within the CD of negotiations of a Treaty dealing with fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. We look forward to a constructive outcome of the works of the High Level Expert Preparatory Group established by UNGA Resolution 71/259.

The CD could also make another key contribution towards the fulfillment of the shared goal of a nuclear weapon-free world, by resuming its substantive discussions on Negative Security Assurances, with a view to elaborating recommendations dealing with all their aspects, not excluding an internationally legally binding instrument.

We also value all efforts aimed at making progress on nuclear disarmament verification. We support the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification and we look forward to the commencement of the work of the Group of Governmental Experts established by Resolution 71/67, which we co-sponsored.

Furthermore, we reiterate our support to the convening of a Conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction - to be attended by all States of the region on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by them - as decided by the 2010 Review Conference.

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Mr. Chair,

Nuclear weapons States bear fundamental responsibilities for the implementation of Art. VI of the NPT. While welcoming the reductions made so far by most of them, and the continued implementation of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (new START) by the United States of America and the Russian Federation, we encourage them to seek further reductions in their nuclear arsenals. We underline the importance of preserving the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), as a landmark agreement that remains key to European and international security and stability.

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Mr. Chair,

As recent events show, the proliferation of nuclear weapons continues to represent a major threat to international security.

Italy condemns in the strongest terms the DPRK's ballistic missile and nuclear tests, which violate its international obligations and represent an increasing threat to regional and international security, peace and the global non-proliferation regime. In its current capacity as Chair of the Security Council Resolution 1718 Committee, Italy is supporting efforts worldwide to properly implement the set of restrictive measures adopted by the Security Council. We call on the DPRK to immediately abandon all its existing nuclear and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner, and to return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards.

On the other hand, we highly value the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) and we believe that the international community should continue to take every action to ensure that it remains a success story. We welcome the confirmation by the IAEA of Iran's continued compliance with the provisions of the JCPoA and we are committed to continuing to support the IAEA in its monitoring tasks.

At the same time, we believe in the importance of a full and complete implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231. In our capacity of Facilitator, we are committed to helping the smooth implementation of that Resolution.

Thank you.