



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
Other Weapons of Mass Destruction**

New York, 16 October 2017

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Mr. Chair,

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

Italy remains fully committed to effective multilateral action against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, which poses a growing threat to international peace and security. The existence of proliferation programs and networks, the difficulty of securing sensitive materials, the risk posed by terrorists' gaining access to them, and the establishment of effective export controls remain major challenges.

These challenges remind us of the importance of achieving universalisation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). We call upon all States not yet Party to ratify or accede to them without delay and without conditions.

Mr. Chair,



Italy remains strongly committed to supporting the Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW.

We are satisfied by the successful removal of all chemical weapons precursors from Libya, in an operation coordinated by the OPCW, to which Italy contributed and which was an excellent example of international cooperation. At the same time, we urge the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to extend full cooperation to the OPCW to resolve all the outstanding issues related to its initial and subsequent declarations.

Mr. Chair,

as events in Syria are dramatically reminding us, chemical weapons have regrettably continued to be used in the last years.

We reiterate our condemnation of the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, anytime and under any circumstances. But condemnation is not enough if it is not backed up by credible deterrence. Accountability is essential. In this regard, we firmly support the UN-OPCW Joint Investigative Mechanism and the OPCW Fact Finding Mission.

We must hinder any erosion of the chemical non-proliferation architecture.

Mr. Chair,

We also attach great importance to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and recognize the need to strengthen the international architecture dealing with biological weapons. After the unsatisfactory outcome of last year's Review Conference, despite the tireless efforts of the Hungarian Presidency, we look forward to the upcoming Meeting of States Parties as a valuable opportunity to provide the BTWC with the tools necessary to respond more rapidly to emerging needs and challenges. Among those tools, a strong intersessional work program is crucial.

Mr. Chair,

We reiterate with utmost determination Italy's strong condemnation of the DPRK's repeated ballistic missile launches, as clear violations of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The frequency of these missile tests, including those

having an intercontinental range, and the constant development of the relevant technologies, are a source of growing serious concern.

The DPRK's missile and nuclear programs represent a severe threat to the global non-proliferation policy, as well as to international peace and security. In our 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 urgently call on the DPRK to immediately halt its launches, abandon all its existing nuclear and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner, and fully comply with all its international obligations.

Mr. Chair,

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.

Mr. Chair,

Italy remains deeply concerned by the increasing risk of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of non-state actors, particularly in relation to terrorist acts. In this regard, we reiterate our support for the full implementation of all relevant international instruments, starting from the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1540. We consider it a crucial pillar of the global non-proliferation architecture and we welcome the successful outcome of the Comprehensive Review of this instrument.

Thank you.