



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

**Conference on Disarmament
High Level Segment**

**Statement delivered by
H.E. Antonio Tajani,**

**Vice President of the Council of Ministers and
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

Geneva, 28 February 2023

Madame President,

Madame Secretary General,

Excellencies,

Italy is fully committed to the mission of the Conference on Disarmament.

We work for a peaceful and secure world, free of nuclear weapons, with a progressive approach for an effective, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament.

Today more than ever, we need a renewed collective commitment toward this goal.

The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty is our cornerstone. We call on all States Parties to implement the Treaty.

We also call on all States to sign and ratify the **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty** for its rapid entry into force.

The **Russian war of aggression against Ukraine** is a threat to international peace and security and to the rules-based international order. It must stop immediately. Russia's remarks on a possible use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine are irresponsible.

We are very concerned by Russia's **militarization of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant**. We support the International Atomic Energy Agency in its efforts to strengthen an area of international protection around the nuclear plant.

With regard to **Iran, an agreement on nuclear remains key** to regional and international security. Iran should fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency, for **the stability of the region**.

We **firmly condemn ballistic missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**. Pyongyang should refrain from provocations and take concrete steps towards a complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.

On outer space, we need to establish rules and principles of responsible behavior, through international cooperation.

Madame President,

The Conference on Disarmament has a crucial role. Despite recent setbacks, **it is our common responsibility to preserve and relaunch its role**.

Italy will do its part. Count on Italy, count on me.