



*Statement by
Ms. Natascia Bartolini
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Mr. Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you and the bureau on your election. I am sure that this Committee, under your guidance, will be very efficient and productive.

Mr. Chairman,

The big challenges that the international community is facing today have no precedent. The heavy burden of ongoing conflicts in several areas of the world together with the alarming disregard by warring parties for international human rights and humanitarian law have reached an unacceptable level. Furthermore, the growing number of dreadful terrorist attacks worldwide makes the situation even more alarming. Today no nation can claim immunity from terrorist attacks and the possible link between terrorism and chemical, biological and nuclear security is unfortunately a threat we have to consider.

Therefore, promoting disarmament and non-proliferation has never been so urgent.

Mr. Chairman,

The total eradication of weapons of mass destruction is one of the founding principles of the United Nations and the only way to prevent our destruction.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the CTBT. We welcome the latest ratifications, but regretfully, despite the overwhelming support, the treaty has yet to come into force. We urge all States to ratify this treaty, whose entry into force would be a vital step towards a world more secure for all.

Pending the entry into force of the treaty, we call upon all States to refrain from any action against its purpose. In this regard, San Marino is very concerned for the nuclear tests conducted by the DPRK and strongly condemns this irresponsible behavior.

Sadly, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime has had a very slow progress in the last years.

The inability of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to reach a consensus outcome document is particularly disappointing. We therefore call all States to engage constructively in the new review cycle of the NPT, which remains the cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Mr. Chairman,

No people and no country should ever experience the devastation and the destructive effects of a nuclear detonation and the overwhelming international support gained by the humanitarian pledge shows the urgency to address this issue.

San Marino appreciates the efforts and the work of the “Open-ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament in taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations”, which has shown the will of many States to start the negotiation process for a legally binding instrument for the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of San Marino is very concerned for the recent incidents regarding the use of chemicals against civilians and deeply condemns any use of chemical weapons by any party. The

use of such weapons is a clear violation of the international law and the ones who are responsible for such abuses must be held accountable.

In this regard, both the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention are of critical importance.

Any biological attack would have catastrophic and irreversible consequences. We welcome the upcoming Review Conference of the States parties to the BWC this November and we consider the Conference as an opportunity to strengthen the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

San Marino is deeply worried for the high number of casualties due to small arms and light weapons and for the irresponsible arms transfer and illicit trafficking of such weapons. The recent adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty and the growing number of its ratification is a remarkable success and a step in the right direction. The treaty sets robust global standards to address a thorny problem that contributes to undermine peace and security. The illicit trafficking fuels conflicts, instability and violence everywhere, causing great human suffering and undermining development. This link between development and peace and security has also been stressed in the Agenda 2030, in which we have all committed to significantly reduce illicit arms flow by 2030. Therefore, now we must work for the implementation of this target and, in this regard, we welcome the successful outcome of the Sixth Biannual Meeting of States on the implementation of the programme of action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

Mr. Chairman,

Protection of civilians in armed conflicts should be one of our priorities.

In the last years, in several countries, homes, hospitals, schools and vital infrastructures have been targeted and bombarded. Regretfully explosive weapons have been used also in populated areas, causing unnecessary suffering, generating displacement and the death of many civilians. We urge all parts to refrain from the use of explosive devices in populated areas, so to reduce as much as possible severe injuries and the death of civilians, including children and aid workers.

We are deeply concerned for these acts and we think that protecting civilians from indiscriminate weapons is one of our fundamental duties.

Mr. Chairman,

We live in a period of geopolitical instability that creates greater risk of global insecurity, arms race and growing nuclear dangers.

We should now redouble our efforts and stem the current dangers with a renewed political will and a revitalized disarmament agenda, bearing in mind that no country can confront alone the growing number of challenges we are witnessing today.

Making progress in disarmament is our shared responsibility and our different perspectives should not be an excuse for inaction. If we really want to overcome today's obstacles, we all need to work harder and engage in good faith and in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation.

Only doing so, we will have a real chance to fulfil our mandate and to create a world more secure for us and for the future generations.

Thank you.