



ITALY

2015 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE

MAIN COMMITTEE I

STATEMENT BY

H.E. AMBASSADOR VINICIO MATI

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

(NEW YORK, MAY 4, 2015)

Check against delivery

Mr. Chair,

Let me first of all congratulate you on your appointment as Chair of this Main Committee I. I would also like to assure you of my Delegation's full support and cooperation.

Italy aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

Having said that, I would like to add some additional remarks in a national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

We are committed to achieving a successful outcome of this Conference based on consensus.

In our view the 2010 Action Plan, which includes tangible steps on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, remains an essential basis upon which we can build our future deliberations. However, we recognize that further efforts are needed for its comprehensive, balanced and full implementation.

Any further progress in the implementation of the Treaty should be based on the consideration that its three pillars are mutually reinforcing.

Since the last Review Conference, the Italian contribution to the goal of a safer world for all without nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, has taken different forms.

First, on the so called humanitarian campaign, we share the utmost concern about the catastrophic consequences associated with nuclear weapons use. Therefore, we believe that an effective, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament has to be pursued through a step by step or a building-block approach.

Italy will continue contributing to the creation of the conditions for a safer world for all without nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, focusing on common ground.

In this vein, Italy has joined the statement made by the Australian delegation on behalf of a large group of like-minded countries. Furthermore, we are contributing constructively to the current debate by organizing a workshop to examine this topic under the lens of international law.

This workshop, entitled “Nuclear Weapons and Human Security”, will be held at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, in Italy, in the city of Sanremo, on the 18th of June.

The promotion of international stability, based on the principle of undiminished security for all, and the full implementation of the non-proliferation obligations are critical components of international environment appropriate for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the Treaty. Disarmament cannot be detached from non-proliferation.

In this vein, as a member of the Group of Governmental Experts on a Treaty banning the production of fissile material we welcome the successful outcome of its works. We would like to thank the Chair of the GGE, Ambassador Elissa Goldberg, for her invaluable contribution to this achievement. After the in-depth discussion we had last year in the Conference on Disarmament, we share the view that this subject is ripe for an early commencement of negotiations in the CD. We welcome the French proposal concerning a draft FMCT as a constructive and meaningful contribution to our work.

This Treaty would be crucial to foster both disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. In the meantime, we continue supporting the moratorium on the production of fissile material.

Moreover, we welcome the launch of the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification, as an innovative initiative involving both Nuclear and Non-Nuclear Weapon States, and we intend to be fully engaged in it by making available all our relevant expertise.

Mr. Chair,

We welcome the reduction made by most of the nuclear weapons States. In this context, we value the indications of progress in implementing the New START Treaty by the Russian Federation and the United States. We strongly encourage them to seek further reductions in their nuclear arsenals including strategic, non-strategic deployed and non-deployed weapons.

We appreciate the holding of nuclear weapons States conferences on the follow-up to the 2010 NPT Review Conference and their concrete deliverables, such as the P5 Glossary of key nuclear terms, as well as other nuclear activities and discussions aimed at building mutual trust and transparency.

Italy supports the prompt entry into force of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty that would strengthen the international non-proliferation regime and significantly contribute to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons. Pending this event, we support a comprehensive moratorium on nuclear weapons tests.

Finally, with reference to the remarks made by some delegations concerning NATO nuclear basing arrangements, I would like to highlight – as already underlined by other NATO Member States – that these arrangements were already in place when the NPT entered into force in

1970. They were made clear to negotiating delegations and were made public. The abovementioned arrangements are fully compatible with the NPT obligations of NATO Allies.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

