



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - New York

## Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Statement delivered by Italy

(New York, 2 August 2022)

Mister President,

Please allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of your duties as the President of the 10<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference. I would like to thank you for the skilful and patient work in steering us to this crucial event through numerous hurdles: we applaud your leadership in the years leading us to the Conference and I would like to assure you of Italy's full support.

Italy fully recognizes itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I will add some comments in my national capacity.

Italy would like to reaffirm its strong and unwavering belief in the Treaty as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, as the essential component of nuclear disarmament efforts and as a key component of the multilateral architecture. Even in the most trying time for the Treaty, we firmly believe that the solution lies not outside but within the Treaty, in the full implementation of its provisions. This principle will guide Italy in the weeks of negotiation ahead of us.

In this regard, we join others in calling upon all States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States and to fully adhere to its terms. Italy views the three pillars of the NPT as complementary and mutually reinforcing, and calls upon the full implementation of commitments taken during previous Review Conferences.

Mister President,

We cannot overlook in this Assembly the implications that the unprovoked aggression by the Russian Federation on the territory and the people of Ukraine has had in terms of tragic loss of life, violation of human rights, breach of international law, and unjustified destruction of civilian

infrastructure. In the opening segment of the Review Conference, it is also our duty to condemn the intimidating use of nuclear rhetoric by a nuclear-weapon state associated with the invasion of a non-nuclear-weapon state; the betrayal of the security assurances given at the time of Ukraine's accession to the NPT; and the threat posed to Ukraine's nuclear infrastructures.

Mr. President,

Italy believes in the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, and fully supports disarmament efforts in accordance with Article VI of the Treaty. While Italy has welcomed the agreement between the United States and Russia to extend the New START Treaty and to establish a bilateral Security Dialogue, and P5 efforts, we call upon the nuclear states with the largest arsenals to take concrete steps towards effective nuclear disarmament through further reductions. To such extent, the readiness announced yesterday by the United States to negotiate a new arms control framework is particularly timely and we call on all relevant Parties to actively and transparently sustain a much needed dialogue to move forward on the non-proliferation agenda.

Italy would also like to express its strong support to risk reduction initiatives. While not a substitute for disarmament, risk reductions measures – such as negative security assurances, transparency, awareness raising and dialogue – have a concrete potential to increase security and prepare the ground for concrete progress towards Article VI implementation.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is a cornerstone of the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda, as well as of the wider multilateral architecture. Italy, including in its current capacity of Co-Coordinator of the Article XIV Conference, strongly supports its early entry into force and calls upon States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT immediately.

Italy also backs the immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations, in the framework of the Conference of Disarmament in Geneva, on a Treaty banning the production of Fissile Material for use in nuclear weapons or other explosive devices.

The IAEA's Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, together with the Additional Protocol, remains a core component of the NPT and a fundamental insurance for our security. The Agency's system of safeguards is crucial to ensure the peaceful character of nuclear activities and - as Director General Grossi reminded us yesterday - it is an indispensable means to preserving and fostering global security.

We remain deeply concerned by the severe difficulties that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) on the Iranian nuclear programme is still experiencing. We urge Iran to return to fully implement its obligations under the JCPoA without delay and to recede from its activities related to uranium enrichment, stockpiling of nuclear material, together with the further development, at a faster pace, of technical capabilities. For Italy, the JCPoA remains a key element of the global non-proliferation architecture and a successful achievement of multilateral diplomacy.

The repeated ballistic missile launches and the preparation for a further nuclear test by the DPRK undermine regional and international peace and security and are a matter of serious concern. We

urge the DPRK to refrain from further provocations and to take concrete steps towards a complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization, and to return to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Mister President,

Italy supports the inalienable right of all NPT Parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear resources for peaceful purposes in conformity with the Treaty, also in the light of a swift and sustainable energy transition.

Italy strongly believes that any project involving nuclear energy, as well as any technology or application making use of radioactive materials, should provide and integrate elements of safeguards, safety, security, emergency preparedness and response. Only such synergies can grant a long-lasting sustainable approach, as well as the actual well-being and protection of both the population and the environment.

We acknowledge the potential of nuclear research in the fields of climate change, food security, and global health.

Mister President,

Italy's overarching priorities at the Conference are to reaffirm the central, enduring role of the NPT in the multilateral architecture; to support the full implementation by all Parties of their commitments; and to make concrete progress towards achieving the disarmament and non-proliferation goals enshrined in the Treaty.

Rest assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation throughout this week. We are ready to work in a constructive way for a successful Conference.

Thank you.