



Mission of Italy to the  
Conference on Disarmament  
Geneva

**Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**  
**Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 11th Review Conference**  
**New York, 28 April – 9 May 2025**

**Cluster 1**  
**Statement delivered by Ambassador Leonardo Bencini**  
**Head of the Delegation of Italy**  
**1 May 2025**

Thank you Chair,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the European Union, by Norway on the principle of irreversibility and by Japan on disarmament education. I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Chair,

Italy believes that a secure and peaceful world is a world without nuclear weapons. Their total elimination should guide our collective efforts. The NPT remains the cornerstone of these efforts. Make no mistake about it: there is no alternative to the NPT. Through Article VI, the NPT provides the only realistic legal framework to attain a world without nuclear weapons, in a way that promotes international stability based on the principle of undiminished security for all. Nuclear disarmament can only be achieved through a progressive approach, based on concrete measures, resulting in an effective, verifiable and irreversible process.

Nuclear-weapon States bear fundamental responsibilities for the implementation of disarmament efforts in accordance with Article VI. We continue to call upon those with

the largest arsenals to take concrete steps towards effective nuclear disarmament through further reductions. Also, the expansion of one nuclear-weapon State's arsenal goes against the goal of Article VI and should be reversed.

Italy emphasizes the importance of transparency regarding nuclear weapons, especially given the current international security context. We commend the transparent approach by France, the United Kingdom and the United States and call on others to follow suit. We welcome the presentation of the respective national reports by France and the United Kingdom during this session of the PrepCom.

Italy rejects the false dichotomy between nuclear disarmament and nuclear risk reduction. In fact, the two go hand in hand. Far from being a substitute for nuclear disarmament, risk reduction is a necessary tool not only to prevent nuclear war but also to build trust and foster a climate conducive to arms control and disarmament negotiations. If we enhance the instruments of risk reduction, we will move a step closer to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Most of the measures needed to implement disarmament efforts are already contained in the 2010 Action Plan. Among these, the prompt entry into force of the CTBT is one of our key priorities, as is the start of immediate negotiations on an FMCT. We will work together with the cross-regional group of friends of the FMCT to give new impetus to this latter goal. Pending the beginning of negotiations, all relevant States should abide by a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

We also welcome the forthcoming debate on Negative Security Assurances within Subsidiary Body 4 of the Conference on Disarmament, established under Italy's presidency of the CD last January. We are ready to discuss substantive elements, within a comprehensive and balanced program of work, with a view to making recommendations dealing with all the aspects of NSAs, not excluding a legally binding instrument. We also wish to reiterate our support for the establishment of Zones Free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

Nuclear disarmament verification can also contribute to promoting trust and transparency and therefore to reduce risk. In this context, we support the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification as well as the establishment of a Group of Scientific and Technical Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification. Italy fully shares its objectives, modalities and mandate and looks forward to the debate that will take place shortly.

Thank you, Chair.