



**Statement delivered by
Ambassador Leonardo Bencini,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

**to the First Committee of the 80th UN General Assembly
Cluster II – Other weapons of mass destruction**

New York, 22 October 2025

Thank you, Chair.

Italy aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. I will now add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Almost three years ago, the main result of the IX Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention was the establishment of a working group to strengthen it. It is with great interest that we listened to President Trump's statement in support of the BWC during the High-Level Week of the General Assembly, in particular its reference to verification. We stand ready to work with the United States and all other States parties to complete the work begun at the IX Review Conference. This means the adoption of two mechanisms, respectively on international cooperation and assistance and on science and technology, at a Special Conference to be convened in August 2026. At that same conference, we should establish a separate working group to tackle the issue of compliance and verification, that remains the most challenging aspect of our work.

Chair,

Italy remains fully committed to supporting the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the OPCW. We strongly condemn any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances. We welcome the cooperation of the Syrian transitional authorities with the OPCW to fully eliminate chemical weapons from Syria.

Italy remains deeply concerned by the risk of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of non-state actors, particularly terrorist networks. This is why we support the full implementation of UNSCR 1540, including by increasing national capacities in the implementation of non-proliferation measures. We also attach great importance to the UN Secretary-General's Mechanism, the only existing framework that provides for an independent investigation of alleged use of biological weapons, which worked successfully in the past. We reject any attempt to weaken this mechanism.

Thank you, Chair