



Permanent Mission of Italy to  
the Conference on Disarmament  
Geneva

**Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

**11th Review Conference of the Parties**

**New York, 27 April – 22 May 2026**

**Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Leonardo Bencini**

**Main Committee II**

***14 May 2026***

Mr Chair,

At the outset, I would like to thank you, and through you the President and the Secretariat, for this revised draft. We are still reviewing the document in detail, but I would like to share some preliminary comments. We believe this Rev.1 is moving in the right direction and we can clearly see the attempt to draft a balanced text.

First, we welcome the retention in the preamble of the need for States Parties to respect their non-proliferation obligations under the Treaty, as well as the importance of addressing all cases of non-compliance to preserve the integrity of the Treaty. In paragraph 5, alongside the reaffirmation of the role of the IAEA as the competent authority to verify compliance, we appreciate the addition that “no action should be undertaken to undermine the Agency’s authority.” Regarding paragraph 11 and the introduction of the term “voluntary,” while we recognize that concluding an Additional Protocol remains a sovereign decision, we would reiterate that, for us, Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements, together with the Additional Protocol, constitute the current verification standard, and their universalization should be pursued without delay.

Turning to paragraph 7, while we welcome the retention of language emphasizing the need for full and timely cooperation with the IAEA, we note that it has now been almost a year since the IAEA lost access to the most sensitive facilities of the Iranian nuclear

program and lost continuity of knowledge regarding entire aspects of that program. We regret that the reference to concerns over the findings of the IAEA Board of Governors on Iran's non-compliance has been removed, thereby significantly weakening the previous language. Furthermore, regarding paragraph 79, we once again stress the need to accurately reflect the non-proliferation challenges posed by the DPRK's nuclear and missile activities. This remains the most flagrant violation in the history of the NPT and must be accurately reflected. At this RevCon, 84 States, including Italy, joined a statement condemning the DPRK's nuclear activities, carried out in defiance of its international obligations and accompanied by continued escalatory actions.

Finally, about paragraph 21, our delegation considers that export control regimes do not create undue constraints on the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. On the contrary, they contribute to facilitating the peaceful use of nuclear energy while strengthening proliferation prevention, mutual trust, and transparency.

Thank you, Chair.