



Permanent Mission of Italy to the
Conference on Disarmament

**Statement delivered by Ambassador Leonardo Bencini,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament for
the annual celebration of Italian Republic Day**

Geneva, 2 June 2026

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

I would like to welcome you on behalf of the staff of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament, and on my own behalf.

As Ambassador Vignali noted a moment ago, this anniversary is of great importance to all Italians, as it marks eighty years since the birth of the Republic. The principles enshrined in the Constitution, adopted two years later, in 1948, continue to guide our actions today, including in Italy's foreign policy. I will refer in particular to the field of security and disarmament.

If you look at the statements we deliver in various forums, you will see that more often than not they include a reference to Italy as a staunch supporter of the multilateral system and of the international disarmament architecture. In recent years, this architecture has come under considerable strain. We often speak of a gradual erosion of the norms and rules that we have built over decades. However, let me also underline that we have witnessed a significant degree of resilience, which gives us reason to remain hopeful for the future.

I have just returned from a month in New York, where I attended the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons. Although we were unable to reach a consensual outcome, the breadth of engagement and the depth of the discussions were encouraging signs.

This is something I have observed throughout my four years as Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament. Allow me to add a personal note, as I will be leaving Geneva in just over two months. I have had the honour and privilege of presiding over the Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention at the end of 2022, and over the Conference on Disarmament at the beginning of 2025. On both occasions, I witnessed a strong commitment from the vast majority of delegations and a genuine willingness to find common ground. Italy's role has been that of a bridge-builder. We have sought to encourage dialogue and foster solutions, and on both occasions we were able to reach consensus – something that has become increasingly rare in multilateral forums.

As is the case today with this uncertain weather, sometimes we should simply wait for the sun to return, and remain confident that it will.

I wish you all the best on Republic Day. Thank you once again for being here.