



**Statement delivered by Ambassador Tomaso Pietro Marchegiani,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament to
the 2026 CD Plenary session**

**General Debate
Geneva, 8 September 2026**

Mr. President,

As I take the floor for the first time in this forum, allow me to say what a great honour it is to represent Italy at the Conference on Disarmament.

This Conference is the sole multilateral forum with a global mandate within the multilateral disarmament architecture.

This entails a great responsibility. Amid growing international polarisation, it is we, the diplomats and delegates working in the CD, who can shape its successes or failures. Hence, we each bear a specific responsibility.

I understand this responsibility in very concrete terms: as the CD is the world's single multilateral body specifically mandated to negotiate disarmament agreements, it is up to us, dear Mr. President, distinguished colleagues, to make it work.

And what do I mean by that? I mean that we must be able to effectively listen to the positions of other delegations, consult our capitals, and work within the *marge de manœuvre* that we identify through our discussions at the table,

with a view to forging possible lines of compromise while remaining faithful to our national positions.

I dare, Mr. President, esteemed colleagues, to address all of us, myself included, with the following appeal: let us not limit our role to reading out our national positions. Let us not confine our role to the noble but limited function of *porte-parole*. Let us be humble negotiators, but ambitious builders of consensus. Let us be genuine mediators, pursuing the broader interest and not only our own.

With such an attitude, we can build on every single area where progress remains possible. As an example, let me remind us all of the establishment, in January 2025, of the Subsidiary Bodies under the Italian Presidency that year. This demonstrated that, even in a very challenging international environment, this Conference can overcome divisions and find common ground.

Let me also stress that consensus, as a constructive means of forging common decisions, can protect the legitimate security interests of all only if we use it in a compromising and forward-looking manner. The success of the GGE on LAWS, which was able to reach consensus on a set of elements within its mandate, is a testament to this. Consensus can, however, also be used with the opposite mindset and become a powerful tool for blocking any progress.

In this regard, let me stress that the repeated exclusion of a significant number of United Nations Member States that have requested to participate in our work as observers is a matter of concern. We are ready to work towards finding a possible way out of the current stalemate. A Conference that aspires to negotiate instruments affecting international peace and security must remain open, representative and capable of listening to the wider membership of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

We have all the tools we need to achieve concrete results within this Conference, notwithstanding the growing polarisation in the international arena.

In Italy's view, effective compromise and common rules are urgently needed, in particular, in the following three areas:

1. a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;
2. legally binding measures addressing destructive anti-satellite testing and preventing an arms race in outer space;
3. addressing the security implications of emerging technologies and new types of weapons, including radiological weapons.

The Conference on Disarmament is, and must remain, at the centre of this effort. We have a duty to ourselves and to our children to shape a more regulated and safer security environment.

In full continuity with our traditional stance on disarmament and arms control, please consider that Italy is, and will always be, ready to work towards compromise and negotiate concrete measures to strengthen international peace and security for all.

Thank you, Mr. President.