



Permanent Mission of Italy to
the United Nations - New York

**First Committee of the 81st UN General Assembly
Cluster V– Other Disarmament Measures and International Security**

Statement by Mr. Luigi Iannuzzi

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New York**

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Chair,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

The growing dependence of our societies on digital technologies has made cybersecurity an integral part of international peace and security. ICTs offer extraordinary opportunities for development and innovation, but their malicious use can disrupt critical infrastructure and essential services and increase instability well beyond national borders.

Italy remains committed to an open, free, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful cyberspace. We firmly believe that international law provides the essential foundation for stability also in the digital domain. The Charter of the United Nations applies in its entirety to State conduct in cyberspace, alongside applicable international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

The UN framework of responsible State behaviour provides our common basis for addressing these challenges. Our priority must be to collectively endeavour to translate its agreed principles, norms, confidence-building measures and capacity-building commitments into concrete action.

Chair,

This year has marked an important transition in the UN cyber process. Following the conclusion of the Open-Ended Working Group, the Global Mechanism on ICTs in the context of international security has begun its work as a permanent, inclusive and State-led platform. Italy welcomed its first substantive session last July and looks forward to contributing actively to its future work, starting from the Dedicated Thematic Groups next December, where relevant stakeholders will have the opportunity to stimulate the exchange among Member States and possible concrete activities.

The new Mechanism provides an opportunity to move from recurring discussions on institutional architecture towards sustained cooperation and implementation. Its effectiveness will be measured by our ability to strengthen adherence to the agreed framework, build confidence among States, improve our understanding of evolving threats and ensure that all countries can meaningfully participate in cyber diplomacy and strengthen their resilience. In fact, the Mechanism belongs to every single Member State, which means that everyone bears a significant responsibility to make it successfully work along the agreed principles.

With this regard, Italy reaffirms its full support to the resolution tabled by the Chair, H.E. Egriselda Lopez, and to the latter's unified approach. We are convinced that is the only way to keep the Global Mechanism on its single track, established by consensus by the 2021/2025 OEWG.

The urgency of these collective, action-oriented efforts is clear. Malicious cyber activities are becoming increasingly sophisticated and disruptive, particularly whenever they target critical infrastructures. Ransomware, commercially available intrusion capabilities and cyber operations conducted as part of broader hybrid campaigns demonstrate the direct consequences that developments in cyberspace can have for societies, economies and international security.

Capacity-building is essential in this regard. Italy's approach is one that supports projects that are demand-driven, sustainable and responsive to national priorities, while promoting cooperation among governments, international organisations, the private sector, academia and civil society.

Italy is also translating these principles into concrete action both at domestic and international level. Among the many initiatives and cooperation projects we are contributing to, I just would like to mention that, since July, we have held the rotating Presidency of the Tallinn Mechanism, the principal multilateral framework coordinating civilian cyber assistance to Ukraine. Through this role, we are working with partners to strengthen Ukrainian cyber resilience, improve coordination and foster greater engagement with the private sector.

Chair,

Artificial intelligence adds a further dimension to this rapidly evolving landscape. AI can strengthen cyber defence and resilience and offer valuable tools for arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. At the same time, it may increase the scale, speed and adaptability of malicious cyber operations and raise new challenges related to human oversight, predictability and decision-making.

Our task is therefore not to resist technological innovation, but to ensure that it develops within a framework promoting responsibility, transparency, cooperation and respect for international law.

The Global Mechanism offers us a permanent forum to pursue this objective. Italy stands ready to contribute actively to making it effective, inclusive and results-oriented.

Finally, Italy reaffirms its strong commitment to export controls as essential tools against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Export control regimes safeguard legitimate trade and cooperation by ensuring responsible use of dual-use technologies. We reject any narratives suggesting otherwise.

I thank you, Chair.