



Permanent Mission of Italy to
the United Nations - New York

**First Committee of the 81st UN General Assembly
Cluster I – Nuclear Weapons**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Tomaso Pietro Marchegiani
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament in
Geneva**

New York, Friday, 16th October 2026

Chair,

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.
I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Against a backdrop of heightened geopolitical tensions and growing nuclear risks, preserving and strengthening the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture is more important than ever.

We regret that the XI Review Conference of the NPT did not lead to a consensual outcome. Yet, it should not obscure the enduring value of the Treaty, which remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and an indispensable framework for advancing nuclear disarmament. As we look towards the next review cycle, we must preserve the integrity of

the NPT, strengthen its implementation across all three pillars and rebuild the trust necessary for meaningful progress.

Our ultimate goal remains a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT. Italy believes this goal must be pursued through concrete, progressive, effective, verifiable and irreversible measures, while ensuring undiminished security for all. Nuclear disarmament and nuclear risk reduction are mutually reinforcing and must advance together.

In this context, preserving channels of communication, increasing transparency and rebuilding confidence among nuclear-armed States are essential to reduce the risks of misunderstanding and miscalculation and create the conditions for renewed arms-control and disarmament negotiations.

As long as nuclear weapons continue to exist, Italy considers that their fundamental purpose should remain deterrence, the preservation of peace and the prevention of coercion. We strongly condemn the Russian Federation's irresponsible nuclear rhetoric and strategic intimidation, as well as the announced deployment of Russian nuclear weapons on Belarusian territory, which increase nuclear risks and undermine strategic stability.

The entry into force of the CTBT remains an essential priority. Thirty years after its opening for signature, we call on all States that have not yet done so, particularly the remaining Annex 2 States, to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay and, pending its entry into force, to uphold the global moratorium on nuclear test explosions.

Italy attaches equal priority to the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Differences concerning existing stocks should not prevent negotiations from beginning.

Italy also follows Iran's nuclear programme with utmost concern. Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapon, must fully comply with its legally binding obligations and must cooperate fully and promptly with the IAEA. We remain committed to the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, through an inclusive process involving all States concerned.

We remain equally concerned by the DPRK's continued development of its unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile programmes and call on it to comply fully with all relevant Security Council resolutions.

Chair,

The present international environment makes nuclear disarmament more difficult, but also more urgent. Italy will continue to work towards a world free of nuclear weapons through concrete and effective steps. Restoring confidence, increasing transparency, reducing nuclear risks and upholding our shared commitments are indispensable to translate renewed dialogue into tangible progress.

Thank you, Chair.