



Permanent Mission of Italy to  
the United Nations - New York

**First Committee of the 81st UN General Assembly  
Cluster VII– Disarmament Machinery**

**Statement by Statement by Counsellor Eugenio Poti  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament  
in Geneva**

**Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

The Conference on Disarmament remains the world's single multilateral forum specifically mandated to negotiate disarmament agreements. At a time of growing international polarization, restoring its negotiating function is therefore a collective responsibility.

Italy has direct experience of what can still be achieved when delegations approach consensus constructively.

In January 2025, during the Italian Presidency, the Conference adopted by consensus Decision CD/2443, establishing five Subsidiary Bodies, appointing

their coordinators and setting a calendar covering the entire session. It was the first time since 1996 that such a decision had been taken already in January.

More than thirty meetings followed, allowing for substantive and interactive discussions across the CD agenda. Above all, that experience demonstrated that, even in an extremely challenging international environment, consensus remains possible.

We therefore regret that in 2026 it was not possible to build upon that experience and establish new Subsidiary Bodies. We should preserve continuity and avoid starting from scratch every year.

Chair,

The credibility of the Conference also depends on its inclusivity.

For the fourth consecutive year, the participation of UN Member States requesting observer status has been obstructed. Once again in 2026, the Russian Federation opposed the participation of a significant number of European countries, including EU Member States and candidate countries. Italy is deeply concerned by the systematic attempt to exclude UN Member States from observing our work.

Our position is clear: every UN Member State requesting observer status should, by default, be allowed to participate. Observer status confers no decision-making rights and does not alter CD membership. Excluding States from our discussions makes this Conference less open, less representative and ultimately less credible.

Consensus remains essential to protect the legitimate security interests of all. But it can fulfil this function only when used to build common ground, rather than prevent it.

Each of us bears an individual responsibility for making multilateralism work. We must listen, consult our capitals and explore margins for compromise through genuine interaction. The work of the CD in 2025, and the consensus achieved this year within the GGE LAWS, demonstrate that this remains possible.

Chair,

Italy remains firmly committed to strengthening the multilateral disarmament architecture. We value ongoing discussions on revitalizing the disarmament machinery and stand ready to discuss the idea of convening, at the appropriate time and under modalities to be agreed, a Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-IV).

Within this architecture, the CD has both the mandate and the tools to deliver concrete results. Our longstanding priority remains the commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Progress is also urgently needed on legally binding measures addressing destructive anti-satellite testing, as well as on the security implications of emerging technologies and new types of weapons.

Difficulty cannot become an argument for inaction. Recent years have shown both faces of consensus: its capacity to bridge profound differences and, when misused, to paralyze our institutions and exclude voices from the room.

Italy will continue to work for compromise, inclusivity and concrete progress, with the objective of restoring the Conference on Disarmament to the negotiating role for which it was created.

Thank you, Chair.