



**Statement delivered by
Ambassador Leonardo Bencini,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament
to the First Committee of the 80th UN General Assembly
Cluster I – Nuclear weapons**

New York, 21 October 2025

Thank you, Chair.

Italy aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. I will now add a few remarks on my national capacity.

It has been eighty years since the explosion of the first atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought unprecedented suffering and devastation. Earlier this year, the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella, was in Hiroshima where he met the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize recipients, the Hibakusha, and remarked that, and I quote, “the atrocity of those moments (...) contributed to forming an international consensus around a moral imperative: that atomic bombs should never be used again.” Unquote.

We must all now recommit to the principle that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. The corollary to this affirmation is that nuclear weapons must be eliminated. Italy believes that we should all strive towards a world free of the nightmare of nuclear annihilation. In Italy’s view, these weapons, for as long as they exist, should only serve defensive purposes, deter aggression and prevent war and coercion. Complete nuclear disarmament is possible and can be achieved through a progressive, realistic

and responsible approach, based on concrete measures and on an effective, verifiable and irreversible process. The NPT provides the only realistic multilateral framework to reach this objective, in a way that promotes international stability based on the principle of undiminished security for all. We call on those countries with the largest arsenals to lead the way.

In under seven months we will gather here again at the XI NPT Review Conference. After two Review Conferences without a substantive final document, it should be every delegation's priority to put this process back on a consensual track. There are some topics on which we see possible convergence, but it will be extremely arduous to reach consensus on a comprehensive final document. We should all, at very least, recommit to the core goals and principles of the NPT and to the 2010 Action Plan.

Chair,

Far from being against the spirit or even the letter of the NPT, extended nuclear deterrence has over the decades prevented proliferation in that it has removed incentives for States in a nuclear alliance to develop their own arsenals. In the fifty-five years since the NPT came into force, not one single country in the NATO alliance has gone nuclear. We can therefore with confidence state that extended deterrence has contributed to one of the Treaty's main goals.

Thank you, Chair.