



Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

11th Review Conference of the Parties *Main Committee II*

New York, 27 April – 22 May 2026

**Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Leonardo Bencini
5 May 2026**

Chair,

Congratulations on your election as Chair of this Committee. I wish you success in your endeavors.

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

Italy remains fully committed to effective multilateral action against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery. We fully support the IAEA's crucial role in upholding the international non-proliferation architecture. We are pleased to serve as a member of the IAEA Board of Governors for the period from 2024 to 2027. We support the universal adoption of key safeguards agreements including Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements (CSA), the IAEA Additional Protocol (AP) and, where applicable, the revised Small Quantities Protocol (SQP).

Italy remains firmly committed to supporting the highest standards in export control practices, with the aim of preventing proliferation, while simultaneously promoting the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials, and scientific knowledge for the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies by all States. Export control regimes are tailored for this purpose, and we reject narratives suggesting otherwise.

Italy reaffirms its strong support for the work of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee. It further recognizes the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic

Missile Proliferation (HCoC) as a widely endorsed multilateral instrument aimed at delegitimizing and preventing the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

UNSC Resolution 1540 remains the only universal, legally binding instrument requiring all States to prevent non-State actors, including terrorist groups and criminal networks, from acquiring nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery. The rapid advancement of emerging technologies has rendered the full implementation of the Resolution ever more urgent.

We reiterate our full commitment to the G7 led Global Partnership which continues to make tangible contributions to international security through specific cooperation projects to prevent, detect and respond to the proliferation of CBRN weapons and related materials and technologies.

Italy encourages all nuclear-weapon States to sign and ratify the relevant Protocols to the nuclear-weapon-free zones, providing security assurances to States members of such zones. We also reiterate our commitment towards the establishment of a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by all States of the region.

In its thirty years of existence, in spite of not having entered into force yet, the CTBT has significantly contributed to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The CTBT has always been and remains an integral and irreplaceable pillar of the global disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. Italy calls for its prompt entry into force; in the meantime, we call on all nuclear-weapon States to uphold their long-standing moratoria on nuclear testing.

Italy believes that NATO extended deterrence has significantly contributed to the NPT's goal of non-proliferation in that it has reduced incentives for States in the alliance to develop their own deterrent. The historical record abundantly proves this point: since the entry into force of the Treaty, not one single NATO country has gone nuclear. Extended deterrence is fully consistent with art. I and II of the NPT. Under these arrangements, there is no transfer whatsoever either of possession of, or control over, those weapons. Statements suggesting otherwise are legally and factually incorrect.

We reiterate that Iran must never develop or acquire a nuclear weapon. We urge Iran to adhere to its legal obligations under the NPT and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and to resume full cooperation with the IAEA. Italy remains committed to diplomacy efforts as the only way to bring about a durable solution to the Iranian nuclear issue.

We are deeply concerned by the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Far from being a closed issue, the DPRK's nuclear program remains the most flagrant violation in the history of the NPT. We urge the DPRK to refrain from further provocations and to

take concrete steps toward complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization; to return to the NPT; to fully comply with IAEA safeguards; and to sign and ratify the CTBT. In 2024, Italy joined the Multilateral Sanctions Monitoring Team (MSMT), which publishes reports and information based on rigorous inquiry into sanctions violations and evasion attempts, as well as successful enforcement efforts of relevant UN Security Council resolutions on the DPRK.

Thank you, Chair.