



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

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

New York, 27 April – 22 May 2026

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

Mr. Chair,

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

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

Italy has always supported the inalienable right of all States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in accordance with Article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Since its entry into force, the NPT has facilitated international cooperation in this sector, promoting technological advancements while ensuring that nuclear energy is not diverted from peaceful uses.

Italy is currently reassessing the potential role of nuclear energy through an ongoing legislative process and joined the international pledge to triple global nuclear capacity at the Nuclear Energy Summit in Paris last March. Italy has signed and ratified all the main international conventions in the field of nuclear safety and security, including in the area of radiological and nuclear emergency. We actively support the International Atomic Energy Agency in its efforts to continuously revise existing safety and security standards and to establish new ones, taking into account new technologies and responding to new challenges arising from the use of nuclear and radiation technologies.

Italy commends the pivotal role of the IAEA in fostering the use of nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes. We have consistently contributed to the Technical Cooperation Programme, which serves as an essential tool for assisting States in strengthening their national capacities, by transferring peaceful nuclear technologies and helping to meet social,

economic and development needs. In this framework, IAEA's flagship initiatives contribute to advancing Sustainable Development Goals and strengthening nuclear science worldwide. We welcome ongoing efforts aimed at fostering innovative partnerships.

Furthermore, Italian institutions, universities, laboratories and research centres are at the forefront of peaceful nuclear applications. Italy enjoys a long-standing collaboration with the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, particularly in harnessing nuclear sciences and biotechnologies to provide precise analytical tools in the area of zoonotic diseases, insect pest management, water management and food safety.

In the field of nuclear medicine, Italy has been promoting the sustainable production of radioisotopes and Fondazione Policlinico Gemelli was recently designated by the IAEA as the fifth Italian Collaborating Centre and first in Europe for radiation oncology and medical physics.

Also, Italy continues to make significant progress in the cultural field by applying nuclear physics techniques to enable characterization, dating and conservation of cultural artifacts and monuments. Last but not least, Italy hosts and funds, together with the IAEA, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, where nuclear scientists are trained every year, and contributes to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme to increase the number of women in the nuclear field.

Mr Chair,

This year we commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. Allow me to remember the loss of lives that resulted and express my deepest admiration to the bravery of first-aid responders. Yet again, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is facing precarious conditions, following the Russian attack to the New Safe Confinement in February 2025. Urgent action is needed to restore the full functionality of the Arch and prevent any radiological release. As DG Grossi said a few days ago, "Chernobyl is a living responsibility".

Italy firmly condemns Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine and is deeply concerned by the related repercussions for nuclear safety and security in Ukraine, including the illegal seizure of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. We reaffirm the need to implement fully and at all times the seven indispensable pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security during an armed conflict and the five concrete principles for protecting the ZNPP.

We greatly appreciate the IAEA's tireless efforts in reaching ceasefires necessary to repair electrical substations connected to Ukrainian nuclear power plants, in providing extensive technical assistance and support for nuclear safety and in delivering equipment to Ukraine in these exceptionally difficult circumstances. Italy proudly contributes to this collective effort through significant voluntary financial support to the IAEA and encourages all Member States to do the same.

Thank you