



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and International Cooperation

## **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

**69<sup>th</sup> General Conference  
Vienna, 17 September 2025**

**Statement delivered by H.E. Giorgio Silli,  
Undersecretary of State, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
International Cooperation**

*Mr President,*

At the outset, let me express my pleasure in attending the General Conference and allow me to congratulate you on your election.

I also wish to **commend Director General Grossi and his staff** for their leadership and tireless commitment over the past year in advancing the mission of the Agency under increasingly challenging circumstances. We reaffirm our strong support to the Agency's work under the motto **"Atoms for Peace and Development"** to promote the **peaceful use of nuclear science and technology while preventing nuclear proliferation**.

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the European Union. I will add some few remarks in my national capacity.

*Mr President,*

The illegal, unjustifiable and unprovoked Russian war of aggression against **Ukraine** continues to cause huge civilian casualties and threatening nuclear safety and security at the European borders. We are seriously concerned by the precarious situation at the **Zaporizhzhia** Nuclear Power Plant. We **reiterate our demand that the Russian Federation immediately withdraw its military and enable the only legitimate Ukrainian authorities to regain control of the site**.

Italy commends IAEA's work in supporting Ukraine to help ensure the safety and security of nuclear power plants. Since 2022, Italy has provided nearly 4 million euros to help meet these extraordinary financial needs. **I am proud to confirm we will renew our financial support this year.** Italy also welcomes the IAEA's role in Ukraine's recovery, including the Memorandum of Understanding signed by DG Grossi and Ukraine's Ministry of Energy at the Ukraine Recovery Conference held in Rome last July.

*Mr President,*

Italy is closely following developments regarding **Iran's** nuclear programme with utmost attention. We are concerned about the Agency's loss of continuity of knowledge on the current inventory and location of Iran's uranium stockpile, and its inability to access safeguarded facilities, except for the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, since 13<sup>th</sup> June.

Only a diplomatic solution can guarantee long-lasting stability in the region, and beyond. We believe there is still room to relaunch constructive negotiations and we remain convinced of the importance of dialogue between the Parties to reach an agreement. In recent months, Italy hosted two rounds of negotiation in Rome between the USA and Iran, under the Omani mediation, and we stand ready to host further meetings, if needed, to resume this crucial effort.

We commend the Agency's tireless efforts in Iran and DG Grossi's personal commitment to engage with Iranian authorities. **We welcome the recent agreement between the Agency and Iran in Cairo, which marks a first step in the right direction.** It is now crucial to ensure its immediate implementation, and we urge Iran to enable the full resumption of the IAEA's mandatory verification activities without delay.

*Mr President,*

The **DPRK's** ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programmes are in blatant violation of relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions. It is necessary for the DPRK to fully comply with its international obligations and

refrain from conducting further nuclear tests: such reckless actions will not gain to the DPRK the status of a nuclear weapon State or any special status whatsoever. We commend the Agency for its readiness to return on-site for performing its essential verification role, as soon as conditions will allow. We are also concerned by the enhanced military cooperation and unlawful arms transfers between the DPRK and Russia.

*Mr President,*

Italy welcomes **Syria's** decision to grant unrestricted access to relevant sites to resolving outstanding safeguards issues. It is crucial that this opportunity is not wasted and that these matters are definitely resolved.

Our collective ability to address these challenges depends on robust **global safety and security standards**. Italy is a party to all major international conventions in this field and urges all States that have not yet done so to adhere to the relevant instruments. Italy has also funded the International **School on Nuclear Security in Trieste**, co-organised by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and IAEA.

Over the years, Italy has played an active role in mitigating disruptions in the supply of radioactive materials for **peaceful purposes**. We strongly support multilateral initiatives aimed at developing new and more effective cooperation mechanisms.

**Preparedness and emergency response** remain essential, as well. Earlier this year, Italy actively participated in the ConvEX-3 exercise, testing its national response Plan and coordination mechanisms within the Response and Assistance NETwork.

*Mr President,*

There is an urgent need for **sustainable energy security and nuclear technologies** can play a crucial role in diversifying the sources, decarbonizing the energy mix and supplying a reliable and low-emission form of energy.

In February 2025, Italy took a significant legislative step towards the potential reintroduction of **nuclear energy** by approving a draft law that delegates

the Government to develop a **national framework for the deployment of sustainable nuclear technologies**. Moreover, the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, together with industrial, academic and research entities, is involved in the European Industrial Alliance on Small Modular Reactors (SMR), with the aim of accelerating the development of the first SMR in Europe by early 2030. Italy is also advancing **research on fusion and innovative fission systems**, both with its national industries and research institutions.

In this strategic context, it is no coincidence that the inaugural Ministerial Meeting of the **World Fusion Energy Group**, co-organised with IAEA, was held in Italy in November 2024.

*Mr President,*

Italy places high value on the Agency's **technical cooperation and assistance programmes**. We will renew **our full contribution to the Technical Cooperation Fund** for 2026. We once again reaffirm our support for the **Agency's flagship initiatives**.

Even in these areas, Italy is playing its part in many ways to advance **innovative partnerships by leveraging the role of academia, research centres and private stakeholders**. In May, Italy hosted the Agency event on “*Nuclear technology and applications for a sustainable future*” in Milan. Soon, a similar initiative will be organised in Sicily. Moreover, Italy contributed to the Rays of Hope's projects in Syria and Iraq, and, together with Sudan, co-chair the Group of Friends of Food Security, here in Vienna. Finally, this week, one of our leading university hospitals, Policlinico Gemelli, will become Italy's fifth Collaborating Centre of the Agency.

To conclude, *Mr. President*, Italy firmly believes in the key role of the IAEA in safeguarding peace, advancing sustainable development, and reinforcing the global non-proliferation regime.

Rest assured of Italy's unwavering support.

Thank you.