



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*

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**Statement by the Italian Delegation
Min. Plen. Gianfranco Incarnato**

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Mr. President,
at the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of the 59th IAEA General Conference. Please, rest assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation throughout this week.

As representative of my country, let me also voice my delight to attend such an important Conference under the leadership of an Italian diplomat, whose experience, skills and commitment are well-recognized.

I also wish to commend Director General Amano for his hard work and leadership in fulfilment of the goals of the Organisation.

(We align ourselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union).

Mr. President,
Italy remains a staunch supporter of the IAEA. We strongly value the whole range of its activities, from the endeavours on verification and non-proliferation to the efforts for increasing national and international nuclear safety and security, and the promotion of peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. Italy will continue supporting the Agency, both financially and through multiple forms of cooperation.

Mr. President,
The IAEA's system of **safeguards** is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, preventing the diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful to military uses and playing an indispensable role in fulfilling the goals of the NPT.

Its multilateral verification regime – impartial, professional and responsible as it is – represents a fundamental insurance for our security.

Following the 14th July agreement on **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action** (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear programme, the conclusion of the Roadmap between the Agency and Iran, and the endorsement by the UN Security Council, the Agency role and responsibilities are expected to increase.

The JCPOA sets up an unprecedented verification and monitoring system that should provide the international community with necessary assurances on the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme and will contribute positively to regional and international peace and security.

We strongly welcome such developments and attach the utmost importance to the Agency's monitoring and verifying role. It is, therefore, crucial that adequate resources are made available for the Agency to be able to conduct its delicate task. We would like to assure the Agency of our support in this endeavour.

On another note, Italy deplores that the Agency continues to be prevented from implementing safeguards measures and verification activities in the **DPRK**. We are deeply concerned by the report on the ongoing renovation and new construction activities at the Yongbyon and other sites, and by official statements confirming DPRK's intention to bolster its nuclear deterrent capabilities. Italy condemns the nuclear and ballistic missile activities carried out by the DPRK in violation of numerous UN Security Council Resolutions (1718, 1874, 2087 e 2094) and supports the General Director's call upon the DPRK to fully comply with its obligations.

Italy also regrets the lack of cooperation with the Agency of the **Syrian Arab Republic** and urges Syria to fully cooperate in all outstanding issues.

Mr. President,

Italy is one of the 53 States where integrated safeguards were implemented in 2014. According with the Agency Annual Report, the IAEA was able to verify that *all* nuclear material remained in peaceful activities in 65 States. We call on all States, which have not yet done so to swiftly conclude **Additional Protocols** with the Agency.

Italy also supports the evolution of safeguards as exemplified by the **State-Level Concept (SLC)**, whose universal implementation will further strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency Safeguards System.

Moreover, Italy is firmly convinced of the benefits of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. In this respect, we welcome the recent conclusion of the Host State Agreement between IAEA and Kazakhstan, a critical development for the establishment of the **IAEA LEU Bank**. While thankful to the Government of

Kazakhstan for volunteering to host the Bank, we are confident that the remaining steps may be completed without further delay.

Mr. President,

Italy is committed to promoting universal adherence to nuclear, as well as biological and chemical non-proliferation and disarmament agreements. The recent use of chlorine as a chemical weapon in Syria and the alleged use of chemical weapons in the region are a painful reminder that the threat posed by **weapons of mass destruction** is real. Freeing the Middle East from all weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems remains an urgent priority.

We regret that divergent views among the interested countries have prevented the Agency from making progress in the application of comprehensive safeguards to all nuclear activities in the region. We also regret that the Conference for the establishment of a **Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East** could not be convened. While stressing that the primary responsibility for the establishment of the **Free Zone** rests with the countries **in the Middle East**, Italy will continue supporting efforts aimed at building confidence and inclusiveness.

Mr. President,

Italy remains fully committed to the achievement of a better international nuclear security environment.

We continue actively supporting the **Nuclear Security Summit** process, which has added a political dimension to the global dialogue on nuclear security, especially with reference to the threat of nuclear terrorism. It has fostered the concept of nuclear security as a global issue to be addressed on a global basis, including strengthening international institutions that support nuclear security. We fully share its objectives, such as the minimization of the use of highly-enriched uranium, the securing of vulnerable materials, the fight against nuclear smuggling and the prevention of acts of nuclear terrorism. We look forward to increased cooperation between partners in view of the Summit's concluding session, next spring, whose permanent legacy should preserve its past achievements and look at the evolving threats.

We also value other fora, such as an expanded **Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism** and a higher profile **Global Partnership** and we look forward to taking part in the next high-level **IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security**, as an additional occasion to review global efforts so far and make recommendations for the future.

Italy's commitment in this area is also proved by our ratification, in July, of the **2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material**. This instrument represents a critical step forward in the international cooperation on nuclear security, and we strongly encourage other member states to accelerate their ratification process so that the Amendment can come into force without further delay.

At the Washington Summit in 2010, Italy announced the setting up of an **International School on Nuclear Security** jointly run by the IAEA and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste. Last spring, the School held its fifth annual training course, highly valued by developing and emerging countries for providing expertise on nuclear security international legal framework and raising awareness on illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive material.

Italy has also been working closely with the IAEA and the ICTP for the realization of the pilot “International School on Radiation Emergency Management” which started its first two-week course this week at the ICTP. This first-of-a-kind initiative is a very positive example of Agency’s inter-departmental collaboration.

I am also pleased to remind that, together with the IAEA, we organized a side-event, dedicated to the International School on Nuclear Security in Trieste and its experience.

On these topics, we organized some events in the last months, including “The Nuclear Security Summit 2016 and Beyond: the Role of Training and Support Centres, and Centres of Excellence”, held in **Bologna**, on 7-8 May 2015; and the **Amaldi Conference** devoted this year to “The International Cooperation for Enhancing Nuclear Safety, Security, Safeguards and Non-proliferation”, where scientists and experts from all around the world had the opportunity to present a wide-range of approaches.

Mr. President,

taking into account the lessons of the **Fukushima-Daiichi** Nuclear accident, we attach the utmost importance to the worldwide implementation and continuous improvement of the highest standards of **nuclear safety**. In this respect, we thank the Director General and his staff for the report on the accident which we are carefully examining.

In 2014, Italy supported the adoption by the Council of the **European Union** of a renewed **Directive** to strengthen the safety framework for nuclear installations.

We also supported the **Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety**, adopted last February. It is a milestone in the process of strengthening nuclear safety and it contains a series of guiding principles for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention.

Italy will continue to allocate funds for safety and security in our national programs for the **decommissioning** of nuclear plants and the management of radioactive waste. In collaboration with the United States, we have removed a significant amount of excess highly enriched uranium and separated plutonium from Italy and plan to uphold this endeavour.

I am also pleased to recall further successful **examples of cooperation between Italian institutions and the IAEA**.

Firstly, expert training courses and experimental activities provided by ENEA, through its Marine Environment Laboratory in Santa Teresa, to the IAEA “Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre”.

Secondly, the **ELETTRA** Laboratory, which plays a leading role in the IAEA’s plans with regards to accelerator physics, synchrotron light and free-electron lasers. In 2014, the new beam line at the ELETTRA synchrotron facility was inaugurated, enabling greater access for scientists from developing countries to carry out related research and measurement.

Thirdly, the cooperation between the IAEA and Laboratories of Gran Sasso and Legnano, in the frameworks of the Agency’s Coordinated Research Project dedicated to Accelerator-based Alternatives to Non-HEU production, and the Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare experiments on Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring for Earth Sciences.

Finally, let me recall **some forefront examples of peaceful uses of nuclear technology** in my country.

The national nuclear scientific and industrial communities are primarily focusing on the international **consortium FALCON**. Its aim is to foster the construction of ALFRED, a prototypical lead-cooled fast reactor, intended both to demonstrate the full compliance with the EU Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan), and to create the first open-access technology park for international research and collaboration. Following the Agreement between leading organizations of Italy and Romania in December 2013, FALCON consortium has been extended to the Czech Republic and to the participation of ten more partners.

TAPIRO, the Italian fast neutron source research reactor, covers an important role in the field of research, in particular for studies in basic research fields like neutron irradiation damage analysis in support of aerospace industry, nuclear fusion and development of detectors used in particle physics. Moreover, through the ENEA National Institute of Ionizing Radiation Metrology, Italy actively supports international activities for the development of national and international standards for accurate and reliable ionizing radiation and radioactivity measurements.

Another successful example is the synchrotron accelerator at **National Center for Oncological Hadrontherapy**, in Pavia, used to produce proton and carbon ion beams for the precise and specific treatment of different kinds of tumor resistant to conventional radiotherapy or requiring a selective release of energy.

Mr President, let me conclude by wishing you and all delegations a successful Conference.

Thank you
