DRAFT RESOLUTION L. 34:
"FOLLOW-UP TOP THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2010 – REVITALIZING THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMAMENT AND TAKING FORWARD MULTILATERAL DISARMAMMENT NEGOTIATIONS"

STATEMENT BY

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(NEW YORK, 18 OCTOBER 2010)

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Mr President,

Allow me first of all to congratulate you on the manner with which you have been conducting the work of our committee and to pledge the support of the Italian delegation in achieving full success.

Italy warmly welcomes the introduction of draft resolution L. 34 on the follow-up of the High-Level meeting to revitalize the work of the Conference on Disarmament. We were happy to sponsor it. As a matter of fact, we have been actively engaged since last month in its drafting, when an informal group of like-minded countries first met in Geneva, in the endeavour aimed at ensuring that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s admirable initiative to convene the meeting and the political momentum thus and gendered be not wasted.

My country applauded this decision of the Secretary-General since its inception. To support his effort and to answer the request he sent to all UN member states, we circulated a few days before the HLM a working paper illustrating Italy’s views and suggestions on how to revitalize the activity of the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr President,

we have heard countless times in these last days here in New York, and even more frequently in Geneva, from all delegations, both of countries belonging to the Conference on Disarmament and those that do not, that the fact that CD has not produced any concrete results in the last 14 years borders on the unbelievable. As we all know, the Conference was set up in 1978 as a multilateral negotiating body in the field of disarmament, but since 1996 it has negotiated nothing. Its work has not amounted to much more than that of a distinguished debating society.

The Secretary-General quite rightly decided that the situation could no longer be tolerated. Disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, are no longer topics of abstract discussion. The international strategic situation is vastly different from 1990. International statesmen are increasingly coming to the conclusion that the future lies in a world free of nuclear weapons. The two main nuclear powers are actively engaged in the mutual reduction of their arsenals. The signatories of the NPT only five months ago agreed on an ambitious plan of action for nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy.
But in all this dynamism, the CD has remained still, inert. Hence, Mr. President, the need that the appeal of the Secretary-General, contained in his summary of the discussions at the HLM not remain unheeded. That suggestions contained therein be brought to fruition in a reasonably brief timeframe.

Mr. President,

Italy urges every country present here in this session of the First Committee to consider the reason behind the High-Level Meeting, to recognize that a world free of nuclear weapons, though obviously not achievable overnight or even in the short term, will in the long run the most sensible choice for national security, and this perspective support L. 34 when we will vote on it.

Thank you