Italy associates fully with the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the EU.

I wish to add a few remarks from a national point of view.

First, peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be responsible uses, as the exercise of any right is always accompanied by responsibilities and obligations and this is true also of the right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes foreseen by article IV of the NPT.

To this end, strengthening the IAEA is key. Italy is the 6th contributor to the Agency’s regular budget and actively supports it also through financial contributions to the Nuclear Security Fund and to the Technical Cooperation Fund.

As regards nuclear security, noting the importance of the timely removal and disposition of nuclear materials from facilities no longer using them, Italy is working with the United States to eliminate HEU and Plutonium from its territory. Work is being carried out in the framework of the “Global Threat Reduction Initiative” in view of the repatriation to the U.S. of the non-utilized materials, in connection with the Nuclear Security Summit Process.

Since the Italian G8 presidency in 2009, Italy places special emphasis on education, training and institutional capacity building as important elements of an effective nuclear security culture. As announced at the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington in 2010, we have launched, in cooperation with the IAEA, an “International Nuclear Security School” running at the International Center for Theoretical Physics in Trieste in North Eastern Italy. The third edition of the School has just taken place in April with very good attendance. It enables young professionals, in particular from developing countries, to acquire relevant knowledge needed to improve national nuclear security, thus contributing to the responsible exercise of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Thank you for your kind attention.