2017 NPT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

CLUSTER 3 ISSUES

STATEMENT BY
H. E. AMBASSADOR MARIA ASSUNTA ACCILI

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

VIENNA, 2-12 MAY 2017
Mr. Chairman,

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and I wish to add some remarks in a national capacity.

**Peaceful Uses and IAEA Technical Cooperation**
This year marks the 60th anniversary of the IAEA which Italy as a founding member has always supported both politically and financially not only through its major contribution to the regular budget, but also through its voluntary contribution to the Technical Cooperation Fund. Thanks to the Technical Cooperation Programme, many experts from developing countries join Italian research institutes to specialize in areas such as nuclear medicine or animal science while thousands of students have attended the International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste since its foundation in 1964.

The peaceful uses of nuclear energy entail serious responsibilities and go hand in hand with safeguards, nuclear safety and nuclear security, for the promotion of which Italy recognizes the central role of the IAEA.

**Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and IAEA Safeguards**
With the increase of nuclear facilities and nuclear applications in the world it is crucial that the IAEA can count on adequate human and financial resources that allow it to apply safeguards as stipulated by its Statute and by the NPT.

Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols constitute the current verification standard and Italy calls for their universalization without delay in order to reassure the international community about the exclusively peaceful nature of nuclear programs.

We are satisfied that Iran, in the context of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is provisionally applying the Additional Protocol and we invite Iran to ratify it without further delay. Its ratification will contribute to start the process that may eventually allow the IAEA to grant the “Broader Conclusion”.

**Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Safety**
Following two referendums, Italy has decided to abandon its nuclear energy program and is consequently decommissioning its nuclear facilities. The Italian State company SO.G.I.N. is in charge of the decommissioning on the basis of the highest international safety and security standards.
In order to test the robustness and the technical, economic and time consistency of the decommissioning program, an IAEA ARTEMIS peer review mission will take place this year.

Italy also continues to attach a great importance to nuclear safety and its regulatory authority ISPRA was submitted last November to an Integrated Regulatory Review Service Mission (IRRS).

As a party to the main international conventions in the field of nuclear safety, Italy presented its National Report at the 7th Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) which recently took place in Vienna.

We call on all countries that have or intend to have a nuclear power program to adhere to the relevant international conventions in the field of nuclear safety.

**Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Security**

Ensuring the highest levels of nuclear security is a shared priority of the international community and it would be a mistake to consider nuclear security as an obstacle to peaceful uses. On the contrary, the highest standards of nuclear security offer the necessary reassurances to the international community and therefore contribute to the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Since 2011 Italy supports the International School on Nuclear Security, through voluntary contributions to the Agency’s Nuclear Security Fund. The School, hosted by the International Center for Theoretical Physics in Trieste and jointly organized by the IAEA and the ICTP is aimed at young professionals from developing countries and, after seven successful editions, has served as a model for other regional schools.

After the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, Italy has joined the Nuclear Security Contact Group (NSCG) and actively participates in its work. We encourage those States that have not already done so to join the Nuclear Security Contact Group as it can contribute to focus engagement within the IAEA.

Last but not least, Italy is fully engaged in the framework of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). In the year of the 10th Anniversary of the Initiative, we have hosted the 2016 session of the GICNT Nuclear Forensic Working Group, in Rome last November and we intend to continue support its work in the future.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your attention.

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