

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Italy

H.E. Amb. Mario E. Maiolini

August 29, 2002

Mister President,

It is a pleasure to take the floor under your Presidency and I avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate you and your country on the assumption of this important responsibility.

Italy assures you the full co-operation of its Delegation in support of your endeavours within the CD, as you stated them in your introductory speech.

Mister President,

I take the floor following the statement of Ambassador Dembri, who – on behalf of Amb. Lint, Reyes, Salander and Vega - has just illustrated the proposal for a Program of Work that Italy had already welcome in the form presented to this Assembly by Amb. Lint.

The new version, which Amb. Dembri has expanded upon in his statement of a few moments ago, meets with the approval of the Italian delegation. The proposal is evolutionary in nature. It looks shorter and more concise than the previous draft and reflects major improvements on issues of substantial importance. As far as the presidential declaration is concerned, the new wording seems to us to be going towards the right direction.

Mister President,

Taking into consideration the activities of the last few years, this proposal of the 5 Ambassadors gives us reason for encouragement and well represents the strong interest of the CD Member States to inject energy and new perspectives in our work and into the activities of our institution.

Thank you Mister President.