



MISSION PERMANENTE D'ITALIE AUPRÈS DE LA CONFÉRENCE DU DÉSARMEMENT

## ITALY

**Statement on Nuclear Disarmament by  
H.E. Ambassador Carlo Trezza,  
Permanent Representative of Italy  
to the Conference on Disarmament**

**PLENARY SESSION**

**Geneva, 23 June 2005**

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We are pleased to participate today in a discussion focused on nuclear disarmament, an issue to which a significant number of countries attributes a priority in the CD. We believe that this discussion is timely in the light of the results, or rather the lack of substantive results, of the 7<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference. Nuclear disarmament is one of the pillars of that Treaty: in spite of our efforts, no consensual indications were reached at the Conference of New York on how to proceed on this theme. The fact that two working papers respectively of the chairman of Main Committee I and of the chairman of its subsidiary body were attached to the Main Committee's report can be of no guidance since these papers were not consensual and did not reflect the views of States parties.

After the conclusion of the NPT review conference, the ball of nuclear disarmament is, more than in the past, in the court of the Conference on Disarmament. In spite of the inconclusive results, we believe that there was an evolution in New York on nuclear disarmament and we in the CD should take stock of it.

Being a member of the European Union, Italy wishes to focus first of all on the value added given by the EU. We shall not enumerate all the provisions pertinent to nuclear disarmament which are contained in the EU Common Position established in view of the Review Conference. The distinguished Ambassador of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Presidency, presented last week to the CD the conclusions drawn by the EU from the Review Conference and introduced our Common Position as an official document. The positions expressed range from a support for the Decisions and Resolution and final document of the two previous Review Conferences, support for article VI of the Treaty, to non-strategic nuclear weapons, the concept of irreversibility and the relevance of the G8 Global Partnership as a new additional feature of nuclear disarmament.

But other significant developments took place in New York. Both nuclear and non nuclear weapon States reconfirmed their engagements under article VI. An effort was made by nuclear weapon States to present in an a more transparent way figures on their nuclear arsenals and on their reductions. An increasing, yet insufficient, number of countries reported on their implementation of article VI and other relevant NPT provisions on nuclear disarmament. We also took good note of the priorities and preoccupations expressed by the Non-Aligned Movement which reiterated its long-standing principled position on disarmament taken at the Summits and Ministerial Conferences, the latest of which was the Ministerial Conference of Durban of August of last year.

There was, moreover, a wide appreciation of some trends and recent developments in nuclear disarmament: acknowledgement of nuclear arms reductions after the cold war, welcoming the Moscow Treaty, Libya's renunciation to its nuclear programs, the Global Partnership. Major concerns were also widely shared: the withdrawal from the Treaty by one country coupled with the alarming announcement on its possession of nuclear weapons, the nuclear terrorist threat, long standing undeclared nuclear activities and clandestine networks, the nuclear activities of countries which still have not joined the NPT.

Mr. President,

in spite of some diverging positions reflecting different priorities on nuclear disarmament, we believe that a significant common ground emerged from the general debate and the substantive discussions at the NPT conference: unfortunately it was shadowed by an unreasonably long and controversial procedural debate. All of us in the CD, including member States not party to the NPT, should now work on the basis of that common ground, including the EU Common Position.

We share the aspiration of those who advocate more efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons and we will continue, together with our EU partners, to encourage progress in this field. In order to find an understanding on a realistic way forward in the CD we could therefore agree on the establishment of subsidiary bodies one of which would deal with nuclear disarmament. Within this body information and views would be exchanged on practical steps for progressive and systematic efforts to attain the objective of nuclear disarmament and in doing so approaches towards potential future work of a multilateral character would be examined.