



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

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Statement by Senator Benedetto Della Vedova

**Undersecretary of State of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation**

Mr. President,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Othman, on your election as President of the General Conference; please, rest assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

I wish to commend Director General Amano for his leadership and hard work in the fulfilment of **IAEA's mandate**. Italy highly values the whole range of the Agency's activities, from verification of the Non-Proliferation Treaty to increasing nuclear safety and security, as well as the promotion of peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. Italy will continue supporting the Agency, both financially and through multiple forms of cooperation.

As we look at the logo of the Agency's 60th anniversary - "*Atoms for Peace and Development*" - I would like to emphasise the significant role of the Agency in strengthening capacities worldwide for the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technology in a number of sectors, in line with **the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. Italy fully shares this mission by providing annual financial contributions for the Technical Cooperation Programme.

Mr. President,

The **IAEA's system of safeguards** – multilateral, impartial, professional and responsible as it is – represents a fundamental tool for international security and plays an essential role in fulfilling the goals of the NPT.

We strongly support the key verification and monitoring role of the Agency in the framework of the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** on the Iranian nuclear programme. I am pleased to recall our national contribution for the years 2015-16 to the Agency's verification and monitoring activities.

The **implementation in good faith by all Parties** of the commitments undertaken with the JCPOA will provide the basis for the sustainability and the success of the Agreement, thereby significantly contributing to regional and international stability and peace.

On another note, Italy has expressed its strongest condemnation for the **nuclear tests** conducted this year **by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, which constitute a threat to international peace and security. We are ready to contribute to a firm and cohesive response of the international community to the irresponsible and illegal behaviour of North Korea.

Italy is committed to promoting universal adherence to nuclear, as well as biological and chemical, non-proliferation and disarmament agreements. The creation in the **Middle East of a Zone free of nuclear weapons** and of other weapons of mass destruction remains an objective that we must continue to pursue. Italy will continue to support operations for dismantling all types of facilities related to weapons of mass destruction, as well as initiatives aimed at re-launching an inclusive dialogue among countries of the Region for the establishment of such a Zone.

Mr. President,

Italy is one of the 54 States where **integrated safeguards** were implemented in 2015. The IAEA was able to verify that all nuclear material remained in peaceful activities in 67 States. As Member States, we all should help the Agency progressively increase such a figure. Italy calls on all States, which have not yet done so, to conclude and bring into force without delay the Additional Protocol.

Taking into account the lessons from the Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear accident, we appreciate the work of the Agency to define its **sustainable strategic approach to nuclear safety** on the basis of the principles of the 2015 Vienna Declaration to prevent accidents with radiological consequences. We look forward to the 7th Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety next year, which will further define the principles of the Vienna Declaration.

Italy will continue to implement its national policy for **decommissioning** of nuclear installations and **safe management** of spent fuel and radioactive waste. On the basis of a consultation process, a national programme has been prepared in line with the relevant Euratom Directives. We welcome the upcoming IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission, which will be hosted by the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research in charge of the oversight of the programme.

Mr. President,

Italy remains fully committed to strengthening the international nuclear security framework. We have been an active participant in the **Nuclear Security Summit** (NSS) process and we now look forward to the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security next December, which will bring forward the legacy of the NSS process together with other initiatives.

Education, training, capacity building in nuclear security remain major priorities. At the last March NSS, we promoted a new and more

focused **Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres Gift Basket**, fostering a culture of scientific advancements.

We also regularly finance the **International School on Nuclear Security** jointly run by the IAEA and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste. The School is highly valued by developing and emerging countries as it trains professionals on the international legal framework, raising awareness on illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive material.

We deeply value the entry into force of the **2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material**, which finally occurred last May. **Italy ratified the Amendment in 2015**; it enhances the scope of the Convention and expands cooperation among States in the prevention of proliferation risks. We encourage the remaining one-third of States Parties to the Convention to ratify the Amendment without delay.

I am pleased to announce that the **Italian Parliament has ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism** and the deposit of our instrument of ratification will follow shortly. The increasing number of ratifications this year provides further opportunities for international cooperation in prevention and criminal investigations. In this field we actively support other important initiatives. In November, for example, we will host in Rome the next meeting of the Nuclear Forensic Working Group of the **Global Initiative to Combat**

Nuclear Terrorism and a table top exercise in the framework of the **Proliferation Security Initiative**.

Mr. President,

Let me recall some successful examples of cooperation between Italian institutions and the IAEA.

Our Agency for New Technologies – **ENEA** –organized last May in Rome an international workshop with the IAEA and OECD/Nuclear Energy Agency on “Five Years after Fukushima: Finding the Balance”. The workshop aimed at presenting and discussing the IAEA findings and recommendations from the Fukushima-Daiichi Report and the implementation of the lessons learned from the Action Plan.

The **Elettra Laboratory in Trieste**, an IAEA Collaborating Centre, plays a leading role in the Agency plans for accelerator physics, synchrotron light and free-electron lasers.

Italy’s **National Institute of Nuclear Physics** is working on two IAEA Research Projects and conducts experiments with the Agency in the framework of the project related to environmental radioactivity monitoring for earth sciences.

The **University of Pavia** will host in November the IAEA Regional Training Course on Seismic Safety for Nuclear Installations.

Our **National Institute of Health** is following the activities of the Agency regarding the protection of the population from health risks due to ionizing radiation and the uses of ionizing radiation for medical purposes. The Institute has also worked on the definition of the standards for radiation protection and safety of radiation sources.

Finally, I wish to recall some examples of advanced **peaceful uses of nuclear technology in my country**.

The synchrotron accelerator of the **National Centre for Oncological Hadrontherapy in Pavia** is producing proton and carbon ion beams for the precise and specific treatment of different kinds of tumors resistant to conventional radiotherapy or requiring a selective release of energy.

The laboratories of the National Institute of Nuclear Physics in Catania treated several hundreds of patients with eye tumors with a remission rate higher than 90%. This represents the first proton therapy facility in Italy for this type of tumors.

Mr President

I wish you and all delegations a successful Conference. Thank you.
