



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

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**Statement delivered by H.E. Giorgio Silli,
State Secretary of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy**

Madam President,

At the outset, let me express my pleasure in attending the General Conference and allow me to congratulate you on your election.

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by Spain on behalf of the European Union. I will add some remarks in my national capacity.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to commend Director General Grossi and his staff for their work over the past year. We strongly appreciate the crucial role that the Agency is playing in these increasingly difficult circumstances. The DG can rest assured that Italy will continue supporting the whole range of the IAEA's activities.

Madam President,

The unprovoked and unlawful aggression launched by the Russian Federation continues to affect also the **Ukrainian nuclear facilities**. Italy remains extremely concerned about the developments on the ground and underlines the importance of implementing concrete and effective measures to protect all nuclear installations in Ukraine, particularly the **Zaporizhzhia NPP**.

In line with this priority, we have welcomed and fully endorsed the five principles to avert a radiological accident at the ZNPP, announced by DG Grossi at the UN Security Council on 30 May, which complement the seven indispensable pillars to preserve nuclear safety and security during an armed conflict, affirmed by the DG since the beginning of the hostilities.

We consider it paramount that the Agency can directly monitor, on a permanent basis and without impediments, the main nuclear installations in the Country and can continue providing extensive support and assistance, upon the request of the Ukrainian authorities. Italy has promptly offered voluntary contributions to the Agency for the extraordinary financial needs arising from these crucial undertakings, for which we strongly commend Director General Grossi and the Agency staff.

Let me also reiterate that Italy firmly opposes the illegal Russian attempt to annex territories of Ukraine and to seize the ZNPP, where the presence of Russian military and technical personnel remains unlawful.

Madam President,

The 2015 **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action** on the Iranian nuclear programme remains for Italy a crucial element of the global non-proliferation architecture and a successful achievement of multilateral diplomacy. We have repeatedly called for the complete and effective application of the Deal by all the parties involved and we have welcomed the Vienna Talks aimed at re-establishing its integrity after the withdrawal of the United States in 2018. Italy regrets the repeated breaches of the terms of the Deal over the last few years by Iran. . At the same time, the current state of advancement of Iranian nuclear research and development represents an increasing concern. We urge Iran to return to the full implementation of its obligations under the **JCPoA** and to cooperate in full with the IAEA without any delay to resolve all pending **safeguards issues**, in accordance with its legally binding obligations under its NPT Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. We reiterate to Iran the need to return to diplomacy.

In this context, Italy greatly appreciates the efforts of the IAEA's inspectors for conducting their verification and monitoring duties in Iran, despite the limitations progressively imposed by those authorities on their access to sites and data.

My Country shares the Director General's serious concern about a possible resuming of nuclear testing by the **DPRK**. The indications of the continuation of its nuclear programme and the increasing number of unlawful missile launches this year represent clear violations of numerous UN Security Council resolutions and a severe threat to international and regional peace and security. Underscoring that the actions taken cannot confer to the DPRK the status of a nuclear weapon State or any special status whatsoever, we commend the Agency for its readiness to return on-site for performing its essential verification role, as soon as conditions allow.

The **IAEA's system of safeguards** remains crucial for the non-proliferation architecture and for our security. In this respect, the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements, together with the Additional Protocols represent the current verification standard and we deem that their universalization should be pursued without delay. Our

national competent regulatory Authority (ISIN) has developed an integrated informatics system (STRIMS), now fully operational, for tracing all the nuclear and radioactive materials used, stored or transferred in Italy.

Madam President,

Italy is a party to all main international conventions in the field of **nuclear safety**, actively supporting the IAEA in its continuous efforts to develop standards on all aspects in this matter and calling on all Countries that have or intend to develop a nuclear power program to adhere to the relevant international instruments and cooperate with the Agency.

In this context, Italy welcomes the IAEA's comprehensive report of 4 July 2023 and its ongoing monitoring of Japan's plan to discharge treated water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, in order to ensure that the procedure is in line with international safety standards. In this respect, we also welcome Japan's transparent efforts with the IAEA, based on scientific evidence.

We are fully committed to the enforcement of the Code of Conduct on the safety and security of radioactive sources and its supplementary guidance. The Italian competent regulatory Authority ISIN is engaged in the modernization and upgrading of the automatic national monitoring network for early warning in case of nuclear or radiological emergency. ISIN is also continuing to implement a modern and performing new network of very high sensitive automatic stations for the monitoring of the environmental radioactivity able to detect radioactivity in air at trace level and to provide early warning signal.

Earlier this year, Italy joined the RANET network, thus implementing his contribution to what is required by the International Convention on assistance in case of nuclear accident or radiological emergency.

Madam President,

We remain fully engaged in the achievement of a better international **nuclear security** environment, sustaining the central role of the IAEA in this framework and encouraging all Member States to fulfil their respective responsibilities.

Italy ratified the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). We actively participate – among others – in the activities of the Nuclear Security Contact Group (NSCG) and in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). The Italian Government funds the **International School on Nuclear Security**, jointly run by the IAEA and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste.

Madam President,

Italy highly values the **technical assistance and cooperation** programmes implemented by the Agency and will renew in 2024 its full contribution, close to 3 million euro, to the Technical Cooperation Fund, while a specific support has been provided by making available to the joint IAEA/FAO division an Associate Immunology Officer for a period of two years.

Italy is hosting again this year foreign researchers in its laboratories, universities and medical centers, while a two-year Master of Advanced Studies in Medical Physics jointly run by the ICTP and the University of Trieste enables young graduates to become clinical medical physicists in their home Countries.

In the area of **nuclear applications**, the National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN) is focusing on state-of-the-art techniques, such as radiotherapy with ion beams, accelerator-based alternatives to uranium-based production of radioisotopes of medical interest, development of innovative technologies for safety and security, and technologies in support of the fusion program.

Italy has been providing as well relevant inputs in the field of environmental, agricultural and animal-health nuclear applications, in particular thanks to the cooperation between the Centro Agricoltura Ambiente “G. Nicoli” in Bologna and the IAEA.

We are also engaged in advancing research on fusion and innovative fission systems, with several leading Italian institutions and companies at the forefront in this endeavor. Let me just mention, in this regard, the Divertor Tokamak Test facility (DTT), currently under construction at ENEA’s research center in Frascati (Rome), representing one of the main projects in the Controlled Thermonuclear Fusion Activity of this decade. Moreover, Italy is involved in several research projects related to small modular reactors, for which our industry is ready to supply components.

Moreover, Italy appreciates the IAEA efforts to provide independent expert opinion and advice to Member States through its peer review services and has gladly provided its experts for the international teams of specialists convened by the Agency, while the Italian Programme for Waste Management will undergo an ARTEMIS Peer Review in this coming month of October. We also note with favour the renewal of the designation of the decommissioning and waste management company, Sogin, as an IAEA Collaborating Center considering that as an example of a highly successful collaboration between Italy and the Agency.

In this vein, we encourage the Agency to continue all its activities related to peaceful uses of nuclear science and technologies.

To conclude, Madam President, rest assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation throughout this week. We are ready to work in a constructive way for a successful Conference.

Thank you.