



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*

**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

**62<sup>nd</sup> General Conference  
Vienna, 17-21 September 2018**

**Statement by Mr. Manlio Di Stefano  
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

Madam President,

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

Let me express my pleasure in attending the General Conference and allow me to congratulate you on your election. Let me also commend Director General Amano and his staff for the hard work in the fulfilment of the IAEA's mandate.

Italy strongly values the whole range of the IAEA's activities and will continue supporting the Agency both financially, as the seventh contributor to the regular budget, and politically, also in its present capacity **as a member of the Board of Governors.**

Madam President,

The **IAEA's system of safeguards** represents a fundamental insurance for our security and plays an essential role in fulfilling the goals of the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols represent the current verification standard. Their universalization must be pursued without delay, as a means conducive to mutual trust and as a necessary step forward towards a purely peaceful use of nuclear energy and applications. In this respect, Italy continues to support the development and implementation of State Level Approaches, as a tool able to further strengthen the effectiveness of the safeguards system.

We strongly support the verifying and monitoring activities undertaken by the Agency in the framework of the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** on the Iranian nuclear programme.

We welcome the confirmation by the IAEA, in twelve successive reports, of Iran's continued implementation of its nuclear commitments and we encourage the Agency to further proceed in this scrupulous verification process. Italy will continue offering its voluntary financial contribution for this crucial endeavour. The JCPoA represents a key element of the global non-proliferation architecture. The full implementation of the deal and of all provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 can foster regional and international security. We deem it crucial to continue to uphold the agreement, with regard to both nuclear-related and sanctions-lifting commitments.

After a deeply troubling 2017, when the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (**DPRK**) nuclear and missile tests threatened international peace and security, in the first half of 2018 the high-level talks between the Republic of Korea and the DPRK, together with the Singapore Summit between the US and the DPRK have brought about positive developments. We hope that such promising steps may lead to an open and constructive dialogue with a view to reaching the common aim of a complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the **Korean Peninsula**. In the meantime, the international sanctions regime needs to remain in place and be effectively implemented, sustaining the negotiating process towards this goal.

We strongly call on the DPRK to prove its actual willingness to engage in credible negotiations by returning to the NPT, by signing and ratifying the CTBT and by promptly resuming its collaboration with the IAEA.

Madam President,

Italy is committed to promoting **universal adherence to and full implementation of nuclear, as well as biological and chemical non-proliferation and disarmament agreements**. This is an impelling priority in particular for the Middle East region.

We regret that the Conference for the establishment of a **Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East** could not be convened. Italy will continue supporting initiatives aimed at re-launching an inclusive dialogue among Middle East countries.

Madam President,

For the safety of its nuclear installations, Italy is continuing to implement its **national policy for the decommissioning and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste**, in strict cooperation with the IAEA.

In the last two years the Agency carried out two reviews in Italy in the framework of the Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation (ARTEMIS). After a first review of the whole national programme for decommissioning and radioactive waste management in 2017, a second ARTEMIS mission was conducted this year to review the specific dismantling strategies and technologies identified by the competent State-owned company Sogin for Trino and Garigliano, two of the four Italian nuclear power plants currently under decommissioning. Both ARTEMIS Peer Reviews provided us with new perspectives on our activities and with very useful recommendations. The international team also identified good practices which we are willing to share with other countries facing similar challenges.

Starting from August 1st this year the new National Inspectorate for nuclear safety and radiation protection (ISIN) has become fully operational as the new national competent regulatory authority, strengthened in its power, independence, financial and human resources. This institutional change is a concrete pillar in the process to implement the 2016 IRRS (*Integrated Regulatory Review Service*) mission recommendations.

Let me also say that Italy remains fully committed to the implementation of the Code of Conduct on the safety and security of radioactive sources and its supplementary guidances.

Madam President,

We remain fully committed to the **achievement of a better international nuclear security environment**. Ensuring the highest levels of nuclear security is a shared interest of the international community, which should not be seen as an obstacle, but rather as a contribution to the development of nuclear technologies and applications for peaceful purposes.

In the context of our efforts for promoting nuclear security culture and capacity building worldwide, we continue financing the **International School on Nuclear Security**, jointly run by the IAEA and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste. The School is highly valued by developing and emerging countries, for its contribution to the development of a cadre of professionals in the national framework governing nuclear safety and security.

I would also like to recall, as a further demonstration of engagement in nuclear safety and security, that Italy has supported for over twenty years the work at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, in partnership with fellow Governments, and with the Italian industry playing a pivotal role in the projects delivery. The nearing completion of these projects will, for the first time since the 1986 accident, allow

Ukraine to address the long term decommissioning of the site in a safe and secure manner.

Madam President,

Italy greatly appreciates the technical assistance and cooperation programs carried out by the Agency. We have granted voluntary contributions to joint IAEA/FAO projects centered on specific needs of Least Developed Countries, and we have provided the joint IAEA/FAO division with an Associate Expert for a period of two years starting this autumn.

In 2018 Italy has also hosted several **foreign researchers** in its laboratories, universities and medical centres in the framework of fellowships financed **under the Agency's technical cooperation programme**. Furthermore, a two-year **Master of Advanced Studies in Medical Physics jointly run by the ICTP** and the University of Trieste continues to enable young graduates to become clinical medical physicists in their home countries.

Also in the field of nuclear applications Italy is giving a significant contribution to international research and development activities. We are proud of promoting the advancement of nuclear medicine through initiatives such as the project for the production of technetium isotopes at the ENEA TRIGA reactor and the program of studies on Boron Neutron Capture Therapy (BNCT) and on copper isotope production for theranostics application at the LENA TRIGA Reactor of Pavia University. Also, the Centro Agricoltura Ambiente "G. Nicoli" in Bologna has been for years an IAEA Collaborating Centre in the development and implementation of a Sterile Insect Technique package for Aedes Mosquitoes suppression.

The National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN) continues its research programs on Accelerator-based alternatives to Uranium-based production of radioisotopes of medical interest, on radiotherapy with beams of protons and heavier nuclei, on nuclear data relevant for innovative nuclear systems and on hybrid systems for the incineration of nuclear waste. Concerning safeguards, it pursues new technologies for the safety and security of radioactive waste and spent fuel, both during transport and storage, that could offer enhanced and cost-effective surveillance of repositories and ports.

My country is also actively engaged in advancing research on fusion and innovative nuclear systems and on methods and technologies to strengthen safety and security, with the aim of protecting both the people and the environment. In particular, we are proud to announce the Divertor Tokamak Test Facility (DTT), the international center of excellence for nuclear fusion research to be built by ENEA in collaboration with European and International partners. The DTT aims at meeting

some of the greatest challenges posed by fusion, with the objective of creating a connecting link between the international nuclear fusion project ITER and the reactor DEMO.

Madam President,

Please, rest assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation throughout this week. We are ready to work in a constructive way with all delegations for a successful Conference.

Thank you.