

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

61st General Conference Vienna, 18-22 September 2017

Statement by Ambassador Maria Assunta Accili Permanent Representative of Italy

Madam President,

Let me start by congratulating you on your election as Chair of the Conference; rest assured, Madam President, of my delegation's full engagement and cooperation throughout this week.

I also wish to avail myself of this opportunity to commend Director General Yukia Amano for the outstanding work he has done at the helm of this Agency. We are very pleased with the renewal of his mandate. We wish him success in his new term in office and we pledge full assistance to his mission.

Madam President,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Italy strongly values the whole range of IAEA's activities and will continue to support the Agency both financially, as the seventh largest contributor to the regular budget, and politically, especially in its capacity as **member of the Board of Governors for the period 2017-19**.

Madam President,

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

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. Italy confirms its annual voluntary contribution for this crucial exercise.

We believe that the international community should take every action to guarantee that the JCPoA remains a **success story in the global efforts against the proliferation of nuclear weapons** and we welcome the confirmation by IAEA of Iran's continued compliance with the provisions of the JCPoA.

At the same time, we attach paramount importance to the full and thorough implementation of **UNSC Resolution 2231**. Good-faith implementation of both Resolution 2231 and the JCPoA by all parties will strongly benefit regional security and encourage mutual trust.

On another note, Italy has expressed its strongest condemnation for the latest **nuclear test** conducted by the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)**, which constitutes a grave and irresponsible provocation in violation of the UNSC

resolutions. The advancement of the DPRK nuclear and missile program poses a new level of challenge to the global non-proliferation regime and a clear threat to peace and security.

We therefore welcome the unanimous adoption of **UNSC Resolution 2375 (2017)**, which **has extensively strengthened the sanctions regime against the DPRK**. As Chair of the 1718 Committee, Italy will maintain a sharp focus on the effective implementation of sanctions by the whole membership of the United Nations. We call on the DPRK to immediately abandon the development of its nuclear and missile program and return at the earliest to the NPT. We deplore that the Agency is not allowed to implement the safeguards agreement.

Madam President,

Italy is seriously engaged in the promotion of the **universal adoption of nuclear, biological and chemical non-proliferation and disarmament agreements**. This is an impelling priority in particular for the Middle East.

We regret that the Conference for the establishment of a **Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East** could not be convened. We also regret that, due to profound differences of views among the countries involved, the Agency has not been able to make progress in the application of uniform and comprehensive safeguards to all nuclear activities in the area. Italy will continue supporting all initiatives aimed at relaunching an inclusive dialogue among Middle Eastern countries.

Madam President,

We remain fully committed to the **achievement of a better international nuclear security environment**. As a result, Italy, where integrated safeguards are operational, calls on all States, which have not yet done so, to conclude and implement the Additional Protocol on safeguards with the Agency.

We support the nuclear security process and, in the context of our efforts for promoting nuclear security culture and capacity building worldwide, we continue to fund the **International School on Nuclear Security**, jointly run by the IAEA and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste (ICTP). The School is greatly valued for its contribution to the development of highly skilled professionals who operate in the field of nuclear safety and security.

We are also proud to contribute to the education of clinical medical physicists from all over the world, and especially from developing countries, through the **Master of Advanced Studies in Medical Physics**, jointly run by the University of Trieste and the ICTP.

In the period 2016/17, a large number of **foreign researchers** have been trained in Italian laboratories and medical structures within the framework of the **Agency's technical cooperation programme**.

Madam President,

For the safety of its nuclear installations, Italy will continue applying its **national policy for the decommissioning and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste** in close cooperation with the Agency.

Last July, an **ARTEMIS mission** was carried out in Italy, hosted by SO.G.I.N., the state-owned company in charge of the national decommissioning and radioactive waste-management programme. It was the first peer review of this kind conducted by the Agency and it covered the overall general decommissioning plan of the nuclear sites managed by SO.G.I.N., along with associated waste management.

At the end of last year, our regulatory authority, the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), hosted an **Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission**, which provided a full scope peer review against the IAEA Safety Standards of the national regulatory framework for nuclear safety and radiation protection.

Italy believes in the relevance of international peer reviews to improve nuclear safety worldwide and confirms the availability of its experts for the implementation of the IAEA IRRS programme. The peer reviews conducted in Italy allowed us to spread best practices and to reinforce the confidence of **national stakeholders** in the value of international cooperation. We will keep advocating the adoption of international standards for nuclear safety worldwide.

Madam President,

Let me seize this opportunity to inform all delegations about **two side-events** that will take place during this week.

Tomorrow, thanks to the generous sponsorship of SO.G.I.N., we will donate to the Agency a bust of Nobel Laureate Enrico Fermi, who is considered the Architect of the nuclear era. After a short ceremony, SO.G.I.N. will hold a side event to illustrate the results of the IAEA ARTEMIS mission.

ENEA, our National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development, will hold a second side event on September 20th titled **Italy's Contribution to International Projects on Innovative Nuclear Technologies**. The event will present an overview of the latest developments in research activities related to fourth-generation reactors and fusion energy.

Madam President,

I am also pleased to announce the **International Workshop on Sustaining Capacity-Building for Nuclear Safety and Security**, organized by the Italian Government in cooperation with the European Commission, the IAEA and various technical institutions, such as ENEA, ISPRA and SO.G.I.N. The Workshop will be held at our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rome on October 11th, 2017.

Let me finally welcome the participation of Director General Amano to the **XX Amaldi Conference**, which will take place in Rome on 9-10 October and will celebrate the 60th anniversary of IAEA and EURATOM.

I thank you, Madam President, and wish you and all delegations a successful Conference.