



Ministero degli Affari Esteri

**International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts
(IAEA, Vienna, 1-5 July 2013)**

Statement by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy Lapo Pistelli

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Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank the Director General of the IAEA, Yukiya Amano, for organising this International Conference on Nuclear Security at a time when nuclear terrorism continues to be one of the most challenging threats to international peace and security.

This Conference provides a timely opportunity to discuss progress made at the global level in strengthening nuclear security and to discuss future developments. Its results will also serve as important input in the preparation of the IAEA's next Nuclear Security plan for 2014-2017.

The international community recognizes nuclear security as an issue of great importance, which must be tackled on the basis of international cooperation and exchange of good practices in order to improve nuclear security globally. We must continue to devote special attention to the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism. Much has been done, more needs to be done.

International agreements and guidelines, particularly those by the IAEA, export control regimes, as well as multilateral engagement mechanisms provide States with opportunities to actively contribute to nuclear security.

I would like on this occasion to affirm Italy's continued commitment to nuclear security. The referendum held in June 2011, which led to discontinuing our nuclear power program, has highlighted widespread concerns that should be met with an even stronger engagement towards achieving the highest levels of nuclear security domestically, in Europe and on the global scale.

We will thus continue to allocate significant funds for safety and security in our national programmes for the decommissioning of nuclear plants and the management of radioactive waste. In this field we have a special expertise and we are amongst the largest contributors to relevant international programs.

Italy actively contributes to the Nuclear Security Summit Process which we see as a cooperative framework facilitating synergy and cooperation in strengthening global nuclear security and reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism on the basis of an action oriented work plan. We welcome the recent announcement by President Obama that the U.S. will host a Nuclear Security Summit in 2016. And as we take a broad view of nuclear security, we also welcome the new commitment towards the relaunching of nuclear disarmament made in the Berlin Speech, as it contributes to the goal of pursuing the security of a world without nuclear weapons.

In the framework of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative we are working closely with the United States for the repatriation to the U.S. of nuclear materials still on our territory. We hope to be able to announce substantive progress in The Hague in 2014 and, definitively, to conclude this initiative before 2016.

Italy has always stressed the importance of education and training as indispensable tools in the fight against nuclear terrorism, in building up a safe and secure nuclear infrastructure and in promoting a solid international nuclear security culture. Focussing on the human factor, even at a time when financial resources are decreasing, represents a high value added investment.

The establishment of Centers of Excellence and other nuclear security training and support centers – with the support of the IAEA – is crucial in promoting networks to share experience and lessons learned and to optimize available resources.

The International School on Nuclear Security, an initiative launched by the Government of Italy together with the IAEA and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, specifically aims at promoting a global nuclear security culture.

The School owes much to the contribution of the IAEA's nuclear security expertise and we appreciate the continuing support of the Agency. The large number of applications shows the strong interest in the initiative in both developed and emerging countries. We are ready to consider the expansion of the courses of the International School on Nuclear Security by adding a "Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Preparedness and Response" training module, if other partners want to join in this endeavour.

Mr. Chairman,

The accident at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi power plant in March 2011, 25 years after Chernobyl, has dramatically raised international attention on the safety and security of nuclear power plants. Once again we are reminded that the consequences of a nuclear accident know no borders. We must therefore redouble our efforts towards the adoption of common rules and stricter international standards, the exchange of

information and transparency, the adoption of mandatory international review mechanisms.

To this end we acknowledge the central role of the IAEA in strengthening the global nuclear security framework, coordinating international cooperation in nuclear security and supporting States to fulfil their national and international nuclear security responsibilities and obligations. We recognise in particular the importance of international conferences on nuclear security with ministerial involvement and strongly encourage the IAEA to continue organising such conferences at regular intervals in the future.

I thank you for your attention.
