PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

60TH UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE
THEMATIC DEBATE ON OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CARLO TREZZA
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NEW YORK, OCTOBER 12, 2005

Italy fully supports and identifies itself with the EU Presidency’s statement. The purpose of this session is to discuss WMDs in general. This is the appropriate time to make remarks on some aspects of WMDs of a general nature. I wish to express our appreciation for the invitation to address the First Committee extended to the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Ambassador Pfirter. Last week, Amb. Pfirter visited Rome, where he participated in a ceremony and a seminar to mark the 10th anniversary of Italy’s ratification of the C.W.C.

I was also happy to hear Ambassador Tibor Toth, my former Hungarian colleague in Geneva, the new Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission. Other officials representing other disarmament fora will address this Committee in the next few days. Let me take this opportunity to say how important it is to have present in New York, at the appropriate time, those who have an institutional responsibility to implement the main disarmament and non-proliferation agreements.

This is also the moment to underline that the main WMD treaties would be less meaningful without the appropriate mechanisms for their implementation and possibly also verification and compliance. The nature of the existing mechanisms varies. Some conventions, like the Chemical Weapons Convention, have a full fledged organization to implement and verify their commitments. The same holds true for the CTBT, which has a preparatory structure pending the entry into force of the Treaty. We hope that it will become a permanent structure as soon as possible.

Other treaties are not so fortunate. For its implementation, the NPT has to rely on a five-year review process. We are in favor of strengthening this process. For the verification of part of its commitments, the NPT can avail itself of the IAIE. There is no need to reiterate how much Italy, together with its EU partners, supports the Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocol of the IAEA. The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize this year to the IAEA and its Director General is an important recognition of the role played by the Agency worldwide.

The Biological Weapons Convention too has to rely on a 5-year review process, which we support. We are working to ensure concrete outcomes from the annual meetings in preparation of the Sixth Review Conference in 2006. We continue to support the principle of BTWC verification.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I wish to draw the attention of the First Committee to the vital importance of the follow-up / implementation process of disarmament and non-proliferation engagements and on the need for the First Committee to be regularly briefed on the evolution of these processes.

As a last remark, let me add that we would be very happy if we could have – in a not too distant future – a briefing here in New York from a representative of an FMCT follow-up process. We all know that this cannot happen yet, but the negotiation of an FMCT Treaty is a priority for us; we believe that it is feasible and are working to make it a reality as soon as possible.