



Ministero degli Affari Esteri

Statement by Mr. Massimo Drei
Alternate Head of the Delegation of Italy

Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review
Conference of the parties to the NPT
Cluster II Issues- Regional Issues

Geneva, April 30, 2013

Mr. Chairman, Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak. Italy agrees fully and with conviction with the statement made earlier on behalf of the European Union.

Italy's geopolitical position puts it very close to the region of the Middle East, its history is intimately connected to the region, so Italy is very sensitive to developments there and follows them closely.

Italy consequently regrets the postponement of the Conference and believes that it should be convened as soon as practically possible in 2013.

We acknowledge with gratitude the huge amount of work put in by the Facilitator and his team; as one distinguished delegate once said, his efforts border on the "super human". And so Mr. Laajava deserves the support of all.

We understand the frustration that the Conference was not held as envisaged in 2012. And yet we believe that such a sentiment should not get the better of us, because we have never been closer to reaching the objective than now.

All parties concerned should capitalize on the work carried out so far, all parties concerned should demonstrate the political will that can ensure that all can walk the extra mile leading to the objective of convening the Conference. It is in their interest, it is in the interest of those that happen to live nearby, and it is in the interest of global peace and security.

Thank you for the kind attention.