

Rome, 25 March 2010

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the organisers of the Conference due to be held at the Chamber of Deputies, arranged at the initiative of the Network of Parliamentarians for Non-proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament, in collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat of Nobel Peace Laureates Summits and to be chaired by Hans Blix, on the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation. The choice of Mr Blix is most appropriate in view of his personal history and experience.

In L'Aquila last July G8 nations solemnly undertook to create a safer world and one without nuclear weapons. Italy fully shares this goal, and believes that steps forward in this direction have been taken. The forthcoming Summit in Washington on nuclear security, promoted by President Obama, as well as the Conference called to review the non-proliferation treaty, are opportunities to make further, tangible progress.

Italy is equally committed to furthering a culture of disarmament and security through the education and formation of younger generations. We firmly believe indeed that a focus on the "human dimension" in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation can help to raise awareness of the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction and augment society's commitment to reducing this threat.

It is with these thoughts that I wish Mr Hans Blix and all conference attendees the best of luck with the work lying ahead of them.

Giorgio Napolitano