

ITALY

13th Informal Working Group (IWG) of the Structured Dialogue

17-18 June 2021

ITALY – Valerio Negro - (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset let me thank you for choosing the Lisbon Framework for Arms Control as a topic for this session, as we strongly believe that all security arrangements being discussed in Vienna in different conventional arms control fora are not only strictly intertwined, but also provide us with a unique toolbox in conflict prevention and crisis management. Nevertheless, in order to re-establish a functioning link between arms control and regional stability, a **shift in political will** is badly needed. This political will was present in the 1990s negotiations that allowed for the kind of outcome that we were reminded of in the presentations by the distinguished speakers.

We believe that the Framework continues to provide a useful blueprint for future discussions by pointing at the principles and the tools, which have been at the basis of negotiations on conventional arms control in the OSCE area. We would like to call upon participating States to reach out to the Framework as a starting point to restore a substantial agenda for future work in arms control.

At the same time, we cannot turn away from the current deteriorating environment, due to violations of international law and OSCE principles and commitments. Previous interventions have already mentioned the challenges that conventional arms control is facing: Italy would like to reiterate that we are at a stage in which the best chance that we have to defend the existing framework is based on its reinforcement and modernization. In this framework, we would like to underline the importance of modernizing the Vienna Document and upholding and preserving the Open Skies Treaty.

Italy remains committed both to existing instruments of cooperative security and to the goal of re-launching conventional arms control regime and CSBMs. We will continue to support and encourage the work of the IWG Structured Dialogue going forward, and will continue to uphold, support, and further strengthen arms control as a key element of Euro-Atlantic security.