



## A view from Dar-es-Salaam

By Hon. Zabein Mhita, Deputy Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education of the United Republic of Tanzania

The signing and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by my Government marks a milestone in regional and international peace and security as well as in civil and scientific applications of the information provided by the International Monitoring System (IMS)

subsequently deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2004.

My Government welcomes and supports the Preparatory Commission's initiatives on the establishment of IMS facilities on the African continent. Once

the PTS has supported human resources capacity building programmes in various aspects. Two technical staff members of the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission have been trained to operate the radionuclide monitoring station in Dar-es-Salaam. Lastly, the information study visit to the CTBTO in Vienna in the year 2004 was organized and financed by the PTS. The information visit, in which I participated, broadened the participants' knowledge on the CTBTO and deepened their understanding of the programmes implemented in other countries, programmes which are designed to make the world a more peaceful place to live. ■

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on events that happen globally. The Treaty represents an important step of mankind towards creating a nuclear-free world and facilitates regional nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear proliferation in the Africa region. Since 1996, the CTBTO Preparatory Commission has played an important regulatory role in the fight against the spread of nuclear weapons and the threats posed by their proliferation.

In recognition of the important role that the CTBTO plays in relation to global security, Tanzania took several steps to enable the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, all of them were very participatory. They included the preparation of a Cabinet paper, the holding of consultative meetings with stakeholders, the presentation of the Cabinet paper to various organs of the Government and finally to the Tanzanian Parliament for endorsement. Thereafter, instruments of ratification were prepared and signed by the President of Tanzania and

the build-up of the IMS verification regime is completed, IMS monitoring facilities will be located in 24 African countries. My Government recognizes with appreciation that these state-of-the-art technologies, which will be owned and operated by the host countries, will have potential civil and scientific applications in African States, including Tanzania. These applications comprise, *inter alia*, critical information on nuclear accidents, earthquake forecasts, information on radioactivity levels and weather forecasting.

On behalf of the Government of Tanzania, I urge all other African States that are yet to sign and ratify the CTBT to expedite the process because global peace and security is a concern of all countries. I commend the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) of the CTBTO for its technical and financial support rendered to my country, especially on the establishment of the radionuclide monitoring station RN64 in Dar-es-Salaam that will be operational soon. Similarly,

### Biographical note



*Honorable Zabein Muhaji Mhita has held several positions in the educational field in Tanzania, including Tutor of the Dar-es-Salaam Teachers College, and Regional Academic Officer of the Dar-es-Salaam region. She holds an honorary degree in education.*

*In 1991, she was appointed Director for primary education in the Ministry of Education and Culture. Since 2000, Ms Mhita serves as a Member of Parliament and as Deputy Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education. In this capacity she has attended a number of national, regional and international forums on science and technology. At present, she is the only female member of the Tanzanian Government. ■*