

REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

PRESS STAKEOUT FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT) MEETING (unofficial transcript)

New York, 24 September 2009

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the media. It is a great pleasure to see you.

We have just concluded the Article 14 Conference of the CTBT, and I am very pleased to be here, together with the four chairs of the CTBT conference: the Foreign Minister of France [Bernard Kouchner], and Foreign Minister [Taieb] Fassi-Fihri of Morocco , and United Nations Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas, and my Under-Secretary-General Mr. [Segio] Duarte.

I am very encouraged by all the momentum which is now being created. There is a new momentum for a world free of nuclear weapons. There is a new drive for peace. The momentum is rare, and we must seize this momentum. This is what we did. This is why we are gathered this morning.

One hundred and eighty countries have signed this treaty and we have only nine states left whose ratification is essential for the entry into force for this very important treaty. I am very much pleased and encouraged by all this very positive trend and atmosphere being created in the world.

President [Barack] Obama is now going to preside over this very important Security Council Summit Meeting to discuss nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues. Russia and the United States have entered into formal negotiations to agree on a follow-on treaty on START [the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty]. These [build] a very important momentum, which I hope will have an important impact on the NPT conference that will be held in May in New York .

This Conference has just adopted a very important declaration which will be submitted to the Security Council. I hope that this will also be a good contribution to the discussions by the leaders in the Security Council.

As the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and depository of this Treaty, and personally as a former Chairman of the CTBT Organization in 1998, I will devote all of my time and energy to ensure the early entry into force of this very important treaty, which is the right path to a world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you very much, and I would like to invite the Ministers and the Messenger of Peace.