



Facilitating the Treaty's Entry into Force

Article XIV of the CTBT concerns the Treaty's entry into force. The article foresees a

mechanism of regular conferences to facilitate entry into force (commonly referred to as "Article XIV conferences") if this has not taken place three years after the Treaty is opened for signature. The first Article XIV conference took place in Vienna in 1999. Subsequent conferences were held in New York in 2001 and 2005 and in Vienna in 2003 and 2007.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations convenes the conference at the request of States that have ratified the Treaty. Representatives of ratifying States are invited to participate in deliberations. Signatory States, non-signatory States, international organizations and NGOs are invited to attend as observers.

Article XIV conferences normally discuss and decide by consensus what measures, consistent with international law, may be undertaken to accelerate the ratification process in order to facilitate entry into force.

STATEMENTS MADE AT THE CONFERENCE

- “NAM strongly calls upon all nuclear weapon States as well as all those States that possess nuclear weapons capabilities to observe the spirit and letter of the CTBT.” Ambassador Dato’ Mohd Arshad M. Hussein, Permanent Representative of Malaysia, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- “The EU will continue to work together with all ratifiers to persuade those States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty of its essential role in curbing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and advancing nuclear disarmament.” Mr João Gomes Cravinho, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Portugal, on behalf of the European Union.
- “As the only nation ever to have suffered nuclear devastation, Japan calls on the international community to ensure that nuclear testing is never carried out by any country ever again.” Mr Hitoshi Kimura, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.



The Foreign Ministers of Austria and Costa Rica, Ms Ursula Plassnik and Mr Bruno Stagno Ugarte.

Seven of the States whose ratification is needed for entry into force but which have yet to ratify the CTBT participated in the conference. Six of these joined ratifying and signatory States in signing the Final Declaration. These were China, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Israel. Pakistan, a non-signatory and Annex 2 State, spoke at the conference for the first time since 1999.

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT

With the Final Declaration, the conference issued a strong political message in support of the Treaty. The document describes the Treaty’s ban on nuclear testing as an “effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects”. Ratifiers and signatories expressed their concern that the Treaty had not entered into force 11 years after its opening for signature on 24 September 1996. Recent political developments “make entry into force of the Treaty more urgent today than ever before”, States said.

States welcomed the significant progress that had been made by securing 15 ratifications and one signature in the two years since the last conference. The Treaty had achieved near universal adherence with the signatures of 177 States and ratifications by 140 of those States. This progress demonstrated “the strong determination of the vast majority of States not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion”.

In his message to the conference, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon, appealed especially to those States whose ratification was need-

CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE

The entry into force of the CTBT is conditioned on its ratification by all States listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty. The 44 so-called Annex 2 States are States that participated in the final stage of the negotiations of the Treaty in 1996 and possessed nuclear facilities at that time. Currently, 34 of the 44 States have ratified the Treaty. Of the 10 Annex 2 States that have still to ratify the Treaty, 3 have not yet signed it.

VIENNA, 2007

The Article XIV conference in 2007 took place on 17 and 18 September in the former imperial Hofburg palace in the centre of Vienna. Representatives of 106 States, including 2 non-signatory States, Barbados and Pakistan, participated in this important event. The conference adopted its Final Declaration by consensus – a rare commodity in the contemporary nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation world.



ed for entry into force to sign and ratify the Treaty. He recalled that “the Treaty would outlaw all nuclear tests and move us towards the larger goals of ridding the world of nuclear weapons and preventing their proliferation”.

AUSTRIAN AND COSTA RICAN PRESIDENCY

Austria and Costa Rica served as Presidency of the conference, which was chaired by their respective Foreign Ministers, Ms Ursula Plassnik and Mr Bruno Stagno Ugarte. The shared Presidency is new in the history of the Article XIV conference. This joint endeavour of two States representing two different geographical regions symbolized their shared concern over weapons of mass destruction and their commit-

ment to increasing support worldwide for the CTBT and the Commission.

ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

In his address to the conference, the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, Mr Tibor Tóth, informed the participants that the build-up of the CTBT verification regime had moved on steadily since the previous Article XIV conference, and with remarkable results. In the two years since the last conference, the number of certified monitoring facilities had increased by 60%. The amount of verification related data sent to States Signatories had doubled, while the overall data volume had tripled.



Speakers at the VERTIC seminar (from left to right): Mr Daryl Kimball, Mr Jaap Ramaker, Mr Anders Persbo and Mr David Hafemeister.

The Executive Secretary recalled that the verification regime had to endure a performance test following the nuclear event in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in October 2006. This event constituted the most serious trial for the norm against nuclear testing for many years; however, it also constituted a validation of the CTBT global verification system, which proved its value to States Signatories. The Executive Secretary stressed also that, as regrettable and disquieting as the event had been, it had underscored the urgency of bringing the Treaty into force and completing the build-up of the verification system.

REPORT BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Jaap Ramaker, the Special Representative of the ratifying States to promote the entry into force of the CTBT, reported that in recent years he had visited most of the Annex 2 States that had not ratified in an effort to assist them in ratifying the Treaty. He underlined his conviction in those visits that the world needed a complete ban on nuclear weapon test explosions, and that it needed the CTBT. The Treaty would cap the development of ever more destructive weapons and constituted the last barrier against a nuclear programme turning into a nuclear weapons programme.

SPECIAL EVENT: ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CTBT

On the margins of the conference, the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) and the Arms Control Association (ACA) hosted a seminar entitled “The CTBT: Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities”. It was moderated by Mr Anders Persbo of VERTIC and three well known experts participated as panellists: Mr David Hafemeister, Professor at California Polytechnic State University, USA, Mr Daryl Kimball, Executive Director of the ACA, and Mr Jaap Ramaker, Special Representative. The seminar was well attended, with over 120 participants.

APPEAL FROM CIVIL SOCIETY

A total of 17 NGOs attended the conference as observers. Ms Lilly Gundacker of the Women’s Federation for World Peace International addressed the conference on behalf of 44 NGOs from around the world. She reminded the participants of the moral dimension of the CTBT, advising the participating States that “your citizens and future generations depend on your wisdom and courage to protect them from the effects of the most dangerous weapons ever to curse humanity.” She reiterated that “no government should stand in the way of this indispensable step toward eliminating the threat of nuclear weapons and preventing nuclear war.”