



## MEXICO

# Our longstanding support for the CTBT

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After the nuclear annihilation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 and 9 August 1945 respectively, the world was confronted with the need for a new code of ethics for humanity. The atomic bombs dropped on Japan in 1945 demonstrated the horrific cruelty and devastating effect of nuclear power when it is used for such destructive purposes. Regrettably, the subsequent Cold War and the conflict between the superpowers meant that nuclear power continued to be used for weapons rather than for peaceful applications.

### CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS AND THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR

The Cold War was a period in history during which world powers struggled for military superiority and political influence, pushing humankind to the brink of extinction. In this sense, Mexico's longstanding commitment to non-proliferation and nuclear

disarmament comes as no accident. The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 at the height of the Cold War occurred very close to our shores, making us realize that the threat of non-peaceful uses of nuclear power had no borders, legal limits or moral justification.

### NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE ESTABLISHED IN LATIN AMERICA

The promotion of a treaty establishing Latin America as a nuclear-weapon-free zone was, in fact, the by-product of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The main purpose of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which entered into force in April 1969, is to shield the region and its people from a deliberate nuclear attack. Despite this "safeguard", my country acknowledged that it was not enough. A nuclear confrontation anywhere will definitely have devastating repercussions worldwide.

### MEXICO'S LONGSTANDING SUPPORT FOR THE CTBT

In 1993, when the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament on the Prohibition of Nuclear Tests decided to continue its work with the mandate to negotiate a Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), Mexico was one of its main proponents. In 1994, Ambassador Miguel Marin Bosh of Mexico presided over the work of the committee. Ambassador Antonio de Icaza was subsequently appointed "Friend of the Chair" during the CTBT negotiations to define the formula for the Treaty's entry into force.

Finally in 1996, after two years of intense negotiations, the CTBT was adopted and opened for signature in September of that year. Mexico was one of the 71 States which signed the Treaty on 24 September 1996, subsequently



**HYDROACOUSTIC STATION:**  
HA06 is located on Isla Socorro which is a 132 km<sup>2</sup> volcanic island in the Revillagigedo Islands, off Mexico's western coast. HA06 covers large parts of the North Pacific Ocean.

ratifying on 5 October 1999. The main objective of the Treaty is to ensure the total and worldwide prohibition of all nuclear tests, be it civil, military or any other kind. The CTBT bans testing in all types of environments, with no limitation on duration.

In order to ensure compliance with the Treaty, provisions have been made for the establishment of a verification regime. This includes an international monitoring system capable of detecting nuclear explosions anywhere on the planet, as well as providing for on-site inspections once the Treaty enters into force.

The International Monitoring System (IMS) has already proven its capability of detecting nuclear tests while also demonstrating the benefits of using its network of stations for civil applications in the case of disaster mitigation, such as early tsunami warnings.

### **CTBT HELPS ENSURE SURVIVAL OF HUMANITY**

Unfortunately, the CTBT has not entered into force, partly due to its non-compatibility with the military interests of a few countries. Nonetheless, it represents a milestone in the efforts of humankind to advance towards peace and international security and, above all, to ensure the survival of humanity through the elimination of nuclear tests. The CTBT also helps to prevent the design, development, or modernization of nuclear weapons. Mexico regrets that several States have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty, which is why my country stresses the vital importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions, to achieve the earliest entry into force of the CTBT. It also calls upon all States to support it and promote the development and operation of the IMS and, pending entry into force, to maintain a moratorium on nuclear tests.

### **PROMOTING THE TREATY'S ENTRY INTO FORCE**

As a testimony of the importance Mexico attaches to the Treaty, my country, together with Australia and New Zealand, presents a resolution proposal aimed at promoting the Treaty's entry into force every year at the United Nations General Assembly First Commission. Since 2002, Mexico has also participated actively in the ministerial meetings to promote the Treaty's entry into force that take place on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly sessions during the years in which Conferences to Facilitate the Entry into Force of the CTBT (Article XIV conferences) are not held. Mexico has also participated in every Article XIV conference since 1999. Various activities have been carried out at the regional level to promote the Treaty, including a seminar organized by Mexico and Canada for the Caribbean region in October 2006. The event allowed participants to exchange experiences regarding



**RADIONUCLIDE STATION**  
 RN44, which has recently  
 been constructed at  
 Guerrero Negro, Mexico.

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the Treaty's signature and ratification process, the operation of the National Data Centres in the region and the installation of the IMS stations.

Mexico also participated in the CTBT Workshop on Cooperation which took place in the Bahamas in November 2007, and in the Regional Ministerial Meeting to promote the CTBT, which was held in Costa Rica in September 2008. Both activities aimed at promoting signatures and ratifications of the Treaty. Given that only four Latin American States still have to sign or ratify<sup>1</sup>, it proves that political will can help ensure the universality of this instrument.

### MEXICO HOSTS FIVE IMS STATIONS

Likewise, my country contributes to the IMS through the installation and certification of monitoring stations, which are foreseen in the Treaty. Three seismic and one hydroacoustic station are now fully operational and sending data in real time to the International Data Centre of the Preparatory

Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in Vienna.

We expect the radionuclide station located in Guerrero Negro to be certified shortly so that it can also start transmitting data to Vienna. Furthermore, Mexico and the CTBTO will soon sign a Facility Agreement for the stations in Mexico's territory.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PRAGUE SPEECH

The reappearance of nuclear disarmament on the international agenda is now being observed again after several years of discouragement and frustration. Mexico hopes that, given the current situation, the States included in Annex 2 of the CTBT, which have not yet ratified and must do so before it can enter into force, will reflect on their positions and ratify it as soon as possible.

It is against this backdrop that President Barack Obama's speech delivered in Prague in April 2009 is particularly significant and keeps alive the hopes of the CTBT's early entry into force by affirming that his administration will pursue "immediate

and aggressive" ratification of the Treaty by the U.S. Senate.

As a non-nuclear weapon State, we have the right to demand that those States listed in Annex 2 which have not yet ratified the Treaty drop their objections, since the right of the majority of the international community to ensure peace and international security through disarmament cannot be ignored by only a few.

Ratification by the Annex 2 States represents a solid political sign of strict adherence to disarmament on the part of the nuclear community.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

#### PATRICIA ESPINOSA CANTELLANO

is a career diplomat who was appointed Secretary of Foreign Relations of Mexico in 2006. From 2002 to 2006 she served as Mexico's Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna and from 2001 to 2002 as Mexico's Ambassador to Germany. In 2005, while in Vienna, Ms. Espinosa served as Chair of the CTBTO's subsidiary body that deals with budgetary and administrative matters.

[1] *Editor's Note:*  
 The only countries in the region that have not yet signed the Treaty are Cuba and Dominica, while Guatemala and Trinidad and Tobago have yet to ratify.