Of course it’s up to every single State, each driven by the demands and priorities of its own domestic agenda, to draw its own conclusion about the appropriateness of committing to the Treaty.

Nonetheless, I am reminded that dialogue was the first step on the path taken that led to the de-escalation of tensions between Cold War foes and their support for arms control.

For it is from the exchange of views and acknowledgement of their commonalities that confidence is built.

The CTBT is a forum for such a process, further supported by a unique Earth-girdling verification regime driven by technology.

The equipment supporting one of those techniques, the detection of noble gas in an on-site inspection, is elaborated upon by Dr Charles Carrigan of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. A team of scientific experts at the International Data Centre (IDC) of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) highlight the efficiency of the infrasound network. Michel Nambobona, the Director General of the National Data Centre in the Central African Republic, outlines his personal role in helping to secure CTBT ratification by his nation.

Finally, indulge me, please, if I misappropriate Alexander Pope’s famous line. To err is human but nuclear weapons offer no divine forgiveness. So let us celebrate the discovery of Gliese 581g, perhaps the first real success story in our search for “living planets,” by ensuring the future of that other “living planet,” Earth.

STATUSES OF SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS
AS OF 27 OCTOBER 2010

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