In September 2013, a group comprising global leaders, senior political figures and high-ranking diplomats from Member States was established at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This Group of Eminent Persons – also known as the GEM – aims to ensure an innovative and focused approach to advance the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the eight remaining Annex 2 States: China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, and the United States. The Annex 2 States are the 44 countries that formally participated in the negotiations of the CTBT between 1994 and 1996, and possessed nuclear power or research reactors at the time. All of these States must ratify the Treaty for it to enter into force.

Through their expertise, experience and political standing, the Group supports and complements efforts to promote the Treaty’s entry into force as well as reinvigorating international endeavours to achieve this goal.

In this issue of Spectrum, five members of the Group describe why they believe the CTBT’s entry into force is so crucial and their personal efforts in helping to realize this objective.

Some of the participants at the meeting of the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) in Stockholm, Sweden, April 2014.

Left to right: Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd; former Director General of the IAEA Hans Blix; and CTBTO Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo during a panel discussion, Stockholm, Sweden, April 2014.

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