

Iran deal bodes well for CTBT's entry into force

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The nuclear deal signed with Iran in Vienna, Austria, on 14 July 2015 for a comprehensive, long lasting and peaceful solution to the Iranian nuclear issue is first of all a great victory for the culture of non-proliferation. Some have likened it to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: as the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) Lassina Zerbo rightly pointed out, this is a "milestone that offers a new opportunity for progress on non-proliferation and disarmament issues."

At the same time, it is an unprecedented success for multilateral diplomacy. World powers – Europe, the United States, Russia and China, with UN backing – have come to realize that leaving the Iranian nuclear issue unsolved would represent a threat to all. Addressing the issue together could possibly open a brand new chapter in regional and global politics. New possibilities can arise in the future months and years – among them, relaunching the process towards the entry into force and the universalization of the Test-Ban Treaty.

The Treaty's entry into force remains a top priority for the European Union and for myself. I have the honour to be part of the Group of Eminent Persons who have supported and promoted the Treaty since the group's foundation in 2013. Signing the Comprehensive Joint Plan of Action with Minister Javad Zarif of Iran and our colleagues was not simply the culmination of months of intense negotiations; for me, it was an uplifting moment in what I see as a lifetime commitment to non-proliferation and disarmament.

The Vienna deal reinvigorates our will to keep on the same path. Now I believe that the entry into force of

the CTBT is truly within reach. It is in the interest of the eight Annex 2 countries that still need to ratify the Treaty¹, and in the interest of their own people. There are some good reasons to be optimistic. Vienna shows that nothing is impossible if there is enough political will. The EU and I will keep using every opportunity to advocate for ratification, both with political leaders and with public opinion in these countries.

The EU's political efforts go hand in hand with its financial commitment to support the Test-Ban Treaty and its organization. Regular contributions from EU Member States to the CTBTO amount to roughly 40 per cent of its total annual budget. In addition, the EU has provided the Organization with more than 15.5 million euros in voluntary contributions since 2006, which places the EU amongst the most significant financial contributors to the CTBTO. We are currently working on an additional Council Decision to provide financial support to the CTBTO beyond 2015.

The nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 2006, 2009 and 2013 have clearly demonstrated the relevance of the Treaty and showed that the performance of the Treaty's verification regime is truly improving. The operational readiness of the verification regime can help promote the Treaty's entry into force. The successful conduct of the Integrated Field Exercise in Jordan in November–December 2014 (a full-scale simulation of an on-site inspection) marks a turning point in this regard, and is a major step for further advancing operational readiness in the field of

on-site inspections. I hope that this success will help us to promote the ratification of the Treaty, and will also contribute to raising confidence in the Middle East on how crucial the Treaty can be to peace and stability in the region.

The deal we reached in Vienna can open a new chapter towards a more cooperative order for the Middle East and beyond. Years of negotiations have come to an end. Our common work for non-proliferation is definitely not over. There is still much to do, but we can now move forward with even stronger resolve.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE



FEDERICA MOGHERINI

has been the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy since August 2014. Prior to that she served as Foreign Minister of Italy from February 2014, and before that as President of the Italian delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. In 2008 she was elected to the Italian parliament's Chamber of Deputies, where she served as Secretary of the Defence Committee and as a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. She was also a member of the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Defence in the Italian parliament.

[1] China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, and the United States of America