

## **Plenary Session II: Building a global movement: How Mayors for Peace can work with national governments, cities and NGOs to bring the CTBT into force**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Earlier today, I emphasized that the proof is in the pudding and that we only know that countries are truly committed to what they say, when they act on commitments made and carry out concrete measures, as specified in one of the five points in the UN Secretary General's plan.

This afternoon, I wanted to emphasize how important it is that mayors, other leaders of cities, and parliamentarians, citizens and civil society worldwide make sure that governments – and their parliaments - act on commitments made. The International Test Ban Campaign, the Nevada-Semipalatinsk movement, and Greenpeace action in the Pacific to mention but a few, were all instrumental in achieving the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in the mid-1990s. Today, we need cities and NGOs in all the nine countries that hold up entry into force of the CTBT to hold their governments – and parliaments - accountable.

In the United States, there is a well-organized mainly Washington-based think-tank led movement to lobby the US administration and Congress on the benefits and significance of the CTBT. There is also a grass root movement – and here I would like to pay special tribute to the down winders – mainly in some of the Southwestern States. Recently, it has been particularly powerful when Mayors, former Senators, religious leaders, prominent media and activists in Utah have spoken up in favor of a CTBT. And the US Conference of Mayors played a significant role in passing a resolution calling on the US Senate to ratify the CTBT without conditions and delay.

More can of course be done in the US: what is needed is a strong public movement, both nationwide and in specific States.

What we see much less of and what we would need to see much more of is grassroots movements, and actions by Mayors, other leaders of cities, and citizens and civil society in other States to put the CTBT in place, to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world. We need action in China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, and Pakistan to mention but a few key countries that have committed themselves to a CTBT or a nuclear-weapon-free world, but still haven't delivered on it.

That 190 countries have committed themselves to a nuclear-weapon-free world is important. But it is equally important that such commitments are not used as an excuse to not move forward on concrete measures. It is a paradox that several of the countries that have committed themselves to a nuclear-weapon-free world, are the same countries that still have to move forward on concrete

measures such as the CTBT. The step-by-step approach became tainted in the past because it was used as an excuse by those who didn't want to move to a nuclear-weapon-free world. But we have to be equally vigilant today so that those who have very little intention of adopting concrete disarmament measures do not use the vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world as an excuse for inaction. A nuclear-weapon-free world can only be achieved if concrete measures are undertaken and governments have to be held accountable in this regard.

I also want to underline that campaigns and organized action can play an equally important role today when the CTBT needs to enter into force as they did when the CTBT was negotiated in the 1990s. Just because a Treaty is there and governments are committed to it, doesn't mean that civil society action is no longer needed. The opposite; it is needed more than ever. Countries need to go the final mile when it comes to CTBT entry into force, and civil society can help achieve this.

Thank you!