

## **Plenary Session 1: Strategic implications of the NPT Review – the CTBT, the next step in the abolition of nuclear weapons**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

It is only by being in Hiroshima that one can start to really understand the horrors inflicted through the use of nuclear weapons. I am very grateful to be here, and hope that all experts on nuclear weapons and on nonproliferation and disarmament from all countries, and especially those from nuclear weapons possessors or aspirants, will visit Hiroshima or Nagasaki very soon.

Being here, where the bomb was used, may help them move forward and act on commitments made.

I will now read a message to you from the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Ambassador Tibor Tóth:

“190 countries committed themselves in New York to a world free of nuclear weapons. Commitments are very important. But action is even more important. The natural first next step in the abolition of nuclear weapons is to make sure that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty enters into force.

The CTBT bans all nuclear explosions. It prevents further nuclear weapons development and is part and parcel of a nuclear-weapon-free world. A country which doesn't have nuclear weapons will need to test to develop them. A country which already has nuclear weapons will need to test to develop new and more advanced ones.

Over 180 countries – governments - have already signed this Treaty; over 150 of them – their parliaments – have also ratified it. The Treaty is close to becoming an international norm – indeed, it is already a *de-facto* international norm, and has been applied as such since 1996 when it opened for signature and ratification. Over 2,000 nuclear explosions were carried out between 1945 and 1996; a handful of tests have been conducted since – by India, Pakistan and North Korea – and in all these cases the UN Security Council has condemned the tests.

The CTBT verification regime with its over 300 monitoring stations worldwide is already operational. It showed how well it works when North Korea tested in 2006 and 2009. Despite being only partially completed, it detected the tests immediately and could provide information about the location, magnitude, time and depth of the tests within two hours to all CTBT Member States. This information – equal for everyone; equally distributed to everyone, nuclear-weapon State and non-nuclear weapon State alike – was provided to all the Members of the UNSC hours before their deliberations on the tests.

This is significant progress. But it is not sufficient. Despite its large adherence, the CTBT hasn't yet entered into force. Nine additional ratifications are needed, by Egypt, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United States. Nearly all of them have committed themselves to a nuclear-weapon-free world. Nearly all of them have committed themselves to a CTBT in force. With the exception of India, Pakistan and North Korea, all of them have signed the CTBT and are active members of the CTBT organization in Vienna. The NPT States among them have committed themselves to a CTBT repeatedly – in 1995, in 2000 and in 2010.

But action is long overdue.

Indonesia set an excellent example when it announced on the margins of the NPT Review Conference in May that it had initiated the ratification process of the CTBT. The Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said that in the current political climate, Indonesia wanted to provide leadership, and he hoped that others would follow Indonesia's example.

Let more countries follow Indonesia's example. And let us all help make this happen!"

What Indonesia has pledged is what is needed: we need countries to provide leadership themselves and not wait for others to act before them, and not link their actions to the actions by others.

It is of course a good sign that the current US Administration is committed to work with the US Senate so that the CTBT can be ratified. And that China has indicated that it will ratify the Treaty once the United States does. And that Indian experts have indicated that India will sign and ratify the Treaty once the United States and China do. And that Pakistan closely follows what India does.

It is of course a good sign that Egypt, Iran and Israel are committed to the CTBT, and have signed many political documents urging its entry into force.

But it would be even better if all these countries took on a leadership role and led instead of being led. This is what the vast majority of non-nuclear weapon States have done throughout the nuclear era.

Iran has repeatedly stated that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only. One important way for Iran to alleviate any concerns that might exist would be to ratify the CTBT.

North Korea has tested twice – in 2006 and 2009. Any denuclearization process of the Korean peninsula must of course include a commitment by North Korea to sign and ratify the CTBT.

A CTBT in force would be an important confidence and security building measure in North East Asia, in South Asia, in the wider Asian region, in the Middle East, in US-Russian relations and internationally.

A CTBT in force would show that countries are willing to adopt concrete measures to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.

In brief, commitments are excellent, but what we need is action, action, action.

Thank you!