

**STATEMENT BY AMB. PORFIRIO THIERRY MUÑOZ LEDO
ROLE OF THE CTBT IN REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY
CROSS-REGIONAL WORKSHOP**

Istanbul, Turkey, 15 to 17 November 2011

**His Excellency, Mr. Ahmet Davutoglu,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey.**

**His Excellency, Mr. Tibor Tóth,
Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.**

At the outset, let me thank our hosts for giving me the opportunity to address this audience and speak about the role of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. Nuclear weapons remain a serious threat to collective security and to humankind and the elimination of these weapons is one of the reasons for us to converge today.

The entry into force at the earliest date of the CTBT is of outmost relevance to Mexico as we are convinced that a universal and effectively verifiable Treaty is a necessary step not only for advancing towards our goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, but also to attain a more secure place to live for both present and future generations. That is our moral responsibility and our commitment.

To try to contribute to the international efforts to reduce the nuclear threat, Mexico, along with Sweden, took over the responsibility to coordinate the 2011-2013 Article XIV process. We are convinced that after fifteen years of the opening of the Treaty for signature its entry into force is more urgent than ever before. We welcome progress made towards universality of the Treaty and recognize that 182 States have signed and 155 States have ratified the CTBT, including 35 whose ratification is necessary for its entry into force (Annex II States).

Last September in New York, during the Article XIV Conference on Facilitating Entry in to Force of the Treaty, 160 countries urged the States that have not done so to sign and ratify the treaty through a consensual Declaration. This is a self-evident situation: most of the world wants to stop the tests of nuclear weapons to try to achieve a world without them. As promoters of democratic methods, our voice must be heard. The Treaty's entry into force and its full implementation will make the world a more secure place to live. Its main goal is intended to prohibit the execution of real nuclear tests, which is a very important step to achieve nuclear disarmament.

There remains a strong international willingness for a permanent halt to nuclear explosive testing. Latin America and Caribbean countries have signed and ratified the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in our region (*Treaty of Tlatelolco*) creating a *de facto nuclear test ban* in the region. The six countries of our region included in Annex 2 have already signed and ratified the CTBT; so there is no legal impediment in our region for the entry into force of the Treaty.

A trustworthy international verification regime in nuclear testing -constituted today by the CTBTO, the International Monitoring System and the International Data Center- allowing States to promptly detect and effectively deter nuclear test explosions, is deemed essential for the consolidation of the security architecture of the XXI century.

The International Monitoring System (IMS) has proved to be a valuable tool to help countries to prevent the possible damages from earthquakes and Tsunamis. This System contributes to both, nuclear test detections and disaster prevention and to the same extent to regional and global security by creating a reliable structure that averts any country from hiding the execution of nuclear tests.

Mexico has taken all necessary measures for the installation and certification of monitoring facilities and their respective means of communication. Three *seismic* station and one *hydroacoustic* station are in place and fully operating, transmitting data in real time to the International Data Center. There is a new *radionuclide* station that has been incorporated recently to the Mexican monitoring facilities in Guerrero Negro.

Though the Treaty has not enter into force, the monitoring regime has demonstrated the potential value of the Treaty's regime, and proved to the nine remaining States of the Annex II that this is the best international guarantee to their national security. These States must assume their responsibility before the rest of the international community.

To tear down the barriers that avoid the entry into force of the Treaty, greater cooperation and involvement by States, non-governmental organizations, the media and civil society, is needed to remind the illegitimacy of nuclear weapons and making it clear that the arguments for not ratifying the treaty are not valid anymore.

Distinguish colleges and participants,

Since the opening for signature of the CTBT fifteen years ago, the vast majority of the members of the United Nations have signed and ratified the Treaty and, in occasion of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT, reiterated that ending of

nuclear weapons testing is a meaningful step in the realization of the objective of eliminating nuclear weapons globally, and of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

We need to be creative and devise new ways to advance the goals of implementing and getting into full force international instruments on disarmament and nonproliferation. A strong and united voice is needed to persuade others who still refuse to share our cherished goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Mexico firmly believes that it is possible to achieve general and complete disarmament, and that weapons should be replaced by dialogue and cooperation to ensure peace and security.

The existence of nuclear weapons and their use as a bargaining tool only reiterates the hypocrisy of those who possess them and their lack of willingness to assume the greatest challenge of humanity: to make the world a safe and dignified place to live. We encourage instead international dialogue and cooperation, together with governmental, non-governmental organizations and civil society, to raise awareness of and support Treaty objectives and its entry into force at the earliest time.

Fifteen years have passed since the Treaty was open for signing without achieving the conditions required for its entry into force. In this context, Mexico is pretty aware of the particularities surrounding the CTBT, however it strongly believes that the pressure should be kept in order to prohibit nuclear testing worldwide.

In this regard, Mexico has recently proposed to a group of countries, working closely on the Non Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) the launching of an "international campaign for the universal ratification of the CTBT and its early into force". Drawing from past experiences and noting the complexity of such a task, Mexico will also work together with other partners in this endeavor, such as the Provisional Secretariat of the CTBT Organization, Non-Governmental Organizations and Parliamentarians.

We shall spare no efforts and use all avenues open to us, in accordance with international law, to continue to encourage further signature and ratification of the Treaty and urge all States to sustain momentum generated by the Conference.

Thank you