

Statement by Fredrik Löjdquist, Minister, Deputy Head of Mission of Sweden to the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO at the opening of the Cross-regional workshop in Istanbul November 15-17, 2011

Mr Chairman

Deputy Under Secretary

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and privilege to be able to address this timely and important workshop as a representative of Sweden, being one of the two so called article XIV-coordinators together with Mexico.

I would like to extend our gratitude to Government of the Republic of Turkey, its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) for organizing this timely CTBT cross-regional workshop. I am glad to see that participants from almost 30 countries are represented here, thus securing a broad cross-regional participation from five continents.

Please also allow me to use this opportunity to express our condolences to the people of Turkey after the recent earthquakes in the Eastern part of the country that lead to such tragic loss of life.

Now, some twenty years after the end of the cold war most of us would consider the era of nuclear testing as something for the history books. Yet its specter might still come back to haunt us. Nuclear testing is – not yet - explicitly banned under international treaty law.

Short of having entered into force, the CTBT is nevertheless already a success story. Since its adoption, nuclear testing has virtually stopped, and all of the State Signatories — currently 182— have abstained from nuclear explosive testing. The countries that have remained outside and have tested have faced universal condemnation and unanimous UN Security Council action.

As you all know there is a so called article XIV-process to promote the entry into force of the CTBT, which unfortunately has not yet happened 15 years after the Treaty was opened. Since the seventh article XIV-conference was held on September 23, 2011, at U.N. Headquarters in New York, under the chairmanship of the Mexican Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa Cantellano and the Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, Mexico and Sweden will coordinate process for the coming two years, until the next Article XIV Conference in 2013.

The final declaration adopted at the Conference emphasized the importance of early entry into force of the treaty and called the ending of nuclear weapons testing “a meaningful step in the realization of the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons globally” and set forth 10 concrete steps towards early entry into force, encouraging among other things the organization of regional seminars to increase awareness of the importance of the treaty.

As I understand, this is precisely what we are doing here today with the general objective of this conference being the role of the CTBT in regional and global security.

This includes the enhancement of broader awareness and deeper understanding of the role of the CTBT and its verification regime in regional and international peace and security. One further important aim in this exchange of experience and expertise is in contributing to enhancing national capabilities in implementing the Treaty and participation in the verification regime.

Taking on the task as article XIV-co-coordinator is a further sign of Sweden's resolute support for the CTBT and its entry into force, as well as wider interest to strengthen the international security architecture. Sweden has consistently supported the CTBT as a unique measure to completely put an end to nuclear testing.

Please allow me to expand somewhat on this point. The strong Swedish support of the test ban is not least the result of our national experience going back to the early parts of the Cold war period.

It is no secret that Sweden, like other countries during that period, was contemplating a nuclear option in the belief that this would improve the ability to deter military aggression.

However, as public understanding about the destructive power of nuclear weapons and the unacceptably devastating consequences of nuclear warfare became more and more evident, this path was abandoned.

The opposition to nuclear weapons was also intensified as a consequence of the nuclear fallout from large scale nuclear test explosions by the former Soviet Union at Novaya Zemlya, which affected northern Sweden in the early 1960s.

Sweden chose instead to intensify its efforts in curbing the nuclear arms race at the time and for a complete ban of nuclear test explosions, not least by contributing to scientific work in this field.

Sweden was among the initiators of the Group of Scientific Experts (GSE) with a role to design and test a global seismological system to monitor nuclear explosions. This system laid the foundation for the verification regime of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Sweden chaired the GSE for 20 years until the CTBT negotiations were finalized in 1996 as well as the CTBTO Working Group on

verification issues from 1996 to 2006. We also took active part in proposing a draft CTBT treaty at the beginning of the negotiations that commenced in January 1994.

As verification technology is concerned, Sweden has developed the so called Swedish Unattended Noble gas Analyzer (SAUNA), which is one of the systems used by the CTBTO Preparatory Commission to measure radionuclide noble gases released by nuclear explosions. The results generated by the SAUNA equipment were crucial in determining the first announced nuclear test by DPRK in 2006. This was in turn of great importance for a swift and scientifically well-founded international response to that event.

All together, this bears witness to the significance we attach to the test Ban Treaty as a corner stone in the international security architecture. We will remain committed to achieving an entry into force of this treaty.

An overriding, core reason of having the CTBT in place is to enhance security. Generally, threats to security in today's interconnected and interdependent world are manifold and multidimensional, often transnational in nature and too complex for any one nation to adequately confront then on its own.

Such issues need to be addressed in a cooperative security architecture that can facilitate needed multilateral responses.

There are many sources of both global and national insecurity - one major such source stems from further proliferation of nuclear weapons and associated technologies as well as the risk of these weapons ever being used. The only long term, infallible guarantee – by definition - preventing those security risks from materializing is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. We share the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. This is the long term objective for which we must continue working, step by step. Obviously, the entry into force of the CTBT would be a significant achievement in this regard.

The overall importance of the CTBT for disarmament and non-proliferation is well known. Among other things, it strengthens non-proliferation by raising the threshold for acquisition of nuclear weapons and by preventing a qualitative nuclear arms race.

However, despite the broad near universal commitment to the treaty, it has yet to take legal effect as its entry-into-force mechanism requires adherence by relevant nuclear technology holders, the 44 states listed in Annex 2 of Treaty. This amounts to a special responsibility on each and every one of those Annex 2 states. The need to act cannot be passed over to others. So far 35 of those states have assumed that responsibility and ratified, including three nuclear weapons states. That is commendable.

Nine Annex 2 countries have not yet – for various reasons, no doubt – chosen to do so. I am convinced that this will change as it becomes increasingly clear what the potential options might be: a world where nuclear testing would again risk inflaming international relations, or a global community that has put such dangerous practices behind itself and banned it once and for all in international treaty law. To my mind the path we need to take is clear. With the CTBT in place can we build a more secure global environment for all. The remaining nine countries have a special responsibility to make the legal ban on nuclear testing a reality.

To those that might be sympathetic to the idea of a complete test ban as such, but perhaps render the CTBT to be unverifiable, unenforceable or in some other way incomplete, there is good news. With the near completion of the International Monitoring System undetected testing is virtually impossible. The system has proven itself on several occasions, including the announced North Korean tests in recent years. It has clearly been demonstrated that the CTBT will work once in place. Now, what remains is the political will to put it there.

The course of further CTBT ratifications is a slow but yet evolving process. As is known, two of the remaining Annex 2 countries have publicly announced their intention to actively pursue ratification. That leadership is very much to be welcomed. Any further ratifications, in particular by key nuclear weapons states, could untie the knot among the remaining states, paving the way for a series of ratifications, allowing for the entry into force of the CTBT to be a tangible scenario in a not too distant future.

Finally, to sum up the treaty's role in global and regional security. The prospect of nuclear arms being used is not a matter only to national and regional security, it is a threat to global security and to human mankind as such, and therefore needs a global, universal response. The CTBT is such an instrument. The CTBT would also constrain regional arms races. The Treaty provides an important and powerful confidence building tool for establishment and maintenance of regional security. The CTBT offers a transparent and democratic system, with the data shared between all states. There are many reasons for the Treaty, there are no valid arguments against the treaty.

Thank you for your attention!