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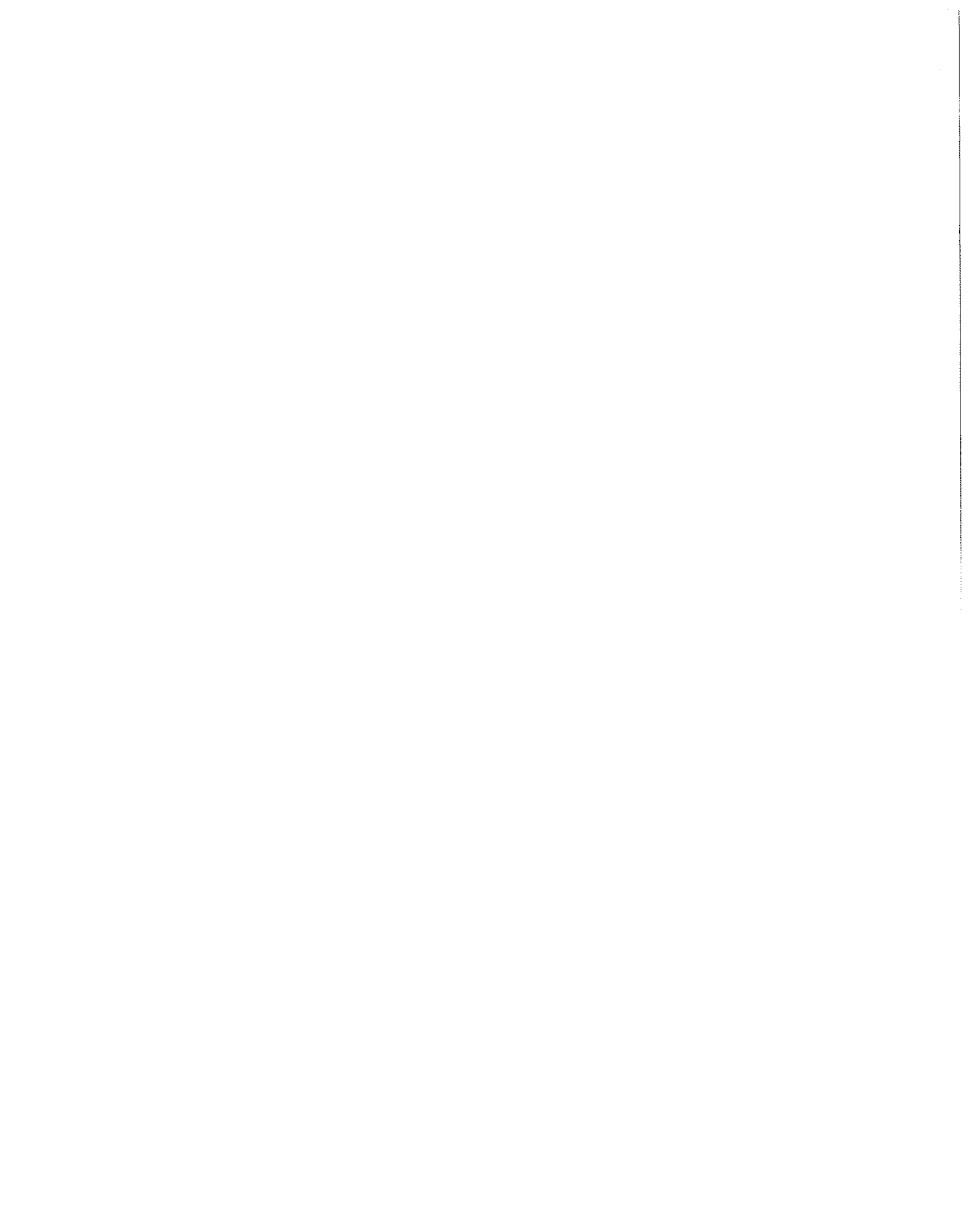
**Statement
by**

H.E. Mr. Michael Spindelegger

**Federal Minister for European and International Affairs
of the Republic of Austria**

at the

**Conference on the Facilitating of the Entry into Force of the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty (Art. XIV)
New York, 24 September 2009**



Distinguished Co-Chairs – Dear Colleagues,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In June 1963, President John F. Kennedy in a speech on nuclear testing said: “The conclusion of a treaty [to outlaw nuclear tests], so near and yet so far, would check the spiralling arms race in one of its most dangerous areas. [...] It would increase our security – it would decrease the prospects of war.” End of quotation.
This is true now just as it was more than 45 years ago.

[The commitment of the United Nations]

Today, the UN is demonstrating its commitment to international peace and security by calling for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation at The Security Council Summit on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation; and at This Article XIV (Fourteen) Conference, which began this morning in the presence of the United Nations Secretary General, many Ministers and other dignitaries.

[Article XIV Conference]

It has been a great honour to share the Chairmanship of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry Into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty with Costa Rica over the past two years. I am proud that further considerable progress has been made towards achieving global support for the Treaty: We now have a total of 181 signatures and 150 ratifications. These are truly impressive figures.

Austria and Costa Rica contributed to this success as much as we could. We stressed the importance of the Treaty in innumerable bilateral meetings – conducted at all levels - and we promoted the issue in regional or international fora. I wager that – over the past years – every one of you has had to endure a sermon by Costa Ricans or Austrians promoting entry into force of the CTBT. I know we risked your patience – but we knew it was for a truly worthy cause.

Let me stress at this point that I particularly appreciated sharing the Presidency with Bruno Stagno from Costa Rica. This is not only because he is a good friend and Costa Rica is an excellent and reliable partner – we see this daily in the close cooperation on many issues in the Security Council. But it is primarily because the Latin America and the Caribbean region was one of Austria’s priority areas to create greater visibility for the Treaty. This area is close to becoming the second geographical region, after Europe, in which all countries have ratified the CTBT. The expertise about the region that our Costa Rican friends brought into our joint efforts was very valuable in this respect.

[Austrian Initiatives: regional meetings and workshops]

Apart from the many political meetings, Austria also supported a number of thematic workshops in cooperation with the CTBT Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS), for example in:

Nassau, The Bahamas, in November 2007,
Samoa in May 2008,
San José, Costa Rica, in September 2008,

Santo Domingo, The Dominican Republic, in May 2009,
Palau in May 2009, and
Mexico City in August 2009.

[Global meetings]

We also took it upon ourselves to organize global meetings. Many of you were present one year ago today, when Austria and Costa Rica together with the Group of Friends of the CTBT organized the traditional Ministerial Meeting in New York. High-level representatives from more than 90 states, as well as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, former US Defence Secretary William Perry and UN Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas participated. Let me stress at this point that I am heartened and grateful that Mr. Douglas took the time out of his busy schedule to come back again to the CTBT this year.

In view of the importance of confidence in the CTBT's means of detection and verification, Austria also organized – together with the PTS – the International Scientific Studies Conference in Vienna in June of this year. This was a major undertaking uniting around 450 scientists from over 70 countries for a dialogue on issues related to the CTBT's capability and readiness to detect nuclear explosions anywhere on the planet. It also addressed how the verification regime has benefited from scientific and technical developments since the Treaty opened for signature in 1996, and looked at how the CTBT's global alarm system can benefit from future scientific and technological developments.

[Universal Ownership]

Austria and Costa Rica were, of course, by no means the only states promoting the CTBT. I noted with great satisfaction the numerous activities undertaken by other countries. Indeed, there is a growing universal ownership of the CTBT. This ownership is extremely important because the remaining challenges are daunting and we will only succeed if we work together.

What are these remaining challenges?

[Ratification by the nine]

First, we still need nine countries listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty to ratify to enable entry into force. These are important states – the US, China, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Israel, Iran, North Korea and Indonesia. They all present careful arguments why they have not yet ratified. I believe there are good counter-arguments but we must all engage with the nine states and convince them that they will benefit from a CTBT-regime.

[Nuclear Tests]

Second, there are still nuclear tests being conducted. The nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's on 25 May was an irresponsible act and a provocation at a time when there are promising developments in the field of global disarmament. But all of us were pleased at how the CTBTO's International Monitoring System - even with only two-thirds of the system in place - recorded the nuclear tests

and informed States Parties accordingly. It became evident that verification functions in a reliable manner in the CTBTO.

[Resources]

This brings me to my third point: it is crucial to ensure that sufficient resources are devoted to the CTBTO to complete the installation and certification of remaining monitoring stations. This requires full and generous cooperation by all States committed to the Treaty. Tibor Toth will undoubtedly return to this issue later.

[CTBT and NPT]

Dear Colleagues,

Thirteen years after adoption of the CTBT it remains an integral part of the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament architecture. Together with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), it is the foundation of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation machinery.

Next May, we will meet here in New York at the NPT Review Conference. This will be a defining moment for international security, for sustainable global peace. We will discuss the NPT and deal with many inter-linked issues, such as the reduction of nuclear arsenals, nuclear weapon free zones, a fissile material cut-off treaty and, of course, the CTBT. I hope that as part of a successful "package" result of the Conference, we will launch a process to enable the CTBT to enter into force soon.

I am confident that this is achievable. I need just to look around at the States from all geographic regions present today. Nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament are universally shared concerns, in which each and every member state of the United Nations is a stakeholder.

Coming back to President Kennedy's speech from 1963, I offer you one more quote: "I speak of peace, therefore, as the necessary rational end of rational men. I realize that the pursuit of peace is not as dramatic as the pursuit of war - and frequently the words of the pursuer fall on deaf ears. But we have no more urgent task."

With this I pass on the baton to the new Co-Chairs France and Morocco and wish them much success during the next two years.

Let me conclude by expressing thanks to the Provisional Technical Secretariat and its Executive Director, Tibor Tóth, for all their support. I would also like to thank Special Representative, Ambassador Jaap Ramaker, for his untiring efforts and his unmatched commitment to this cause over the last 16 years. It was a pleasure working with you.

Thank you.

