



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA



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STATEMENT

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AT THE CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF
THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

NEW YORK, 24 SEPTEMBER 2009

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Bulgarian Delegation, let me add my voice to those delegations that have congratulated you on your appointment as Chair of this important Conference. I would like to assure you of Bulgaria's full cooperation and support in your efforts to ensure a successful outcome to this meeting.

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the Swedish EU Presidency. In addition, I would like to stress a number of points to which we attach particular importance.

Mr. President,

Bulgaria considers the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) to be one of the key elements to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to encourage international disarmament. The CTBT represents a milestone in the efforts to prohibit any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion in any environment and thus it contributes effectively to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In present days, the risk of nuclear weapon's proliferation and their potential use by terrorist organizations, gives rise to serious concern and represents one of the most serious threats to international security. Hence, the necessity of the CTBT's early entry into force is an imperative. The effective implementation of the Treaty would significantly diminish the risk of nuclear weapon's proliferation, including acquiring and testing of nuclear weapons by terrorist formations.

Combating terrorism and the proliferation of WMD is among the Bulgarian foreign policy priorities. We strongly believe that the world's peace and security would be further strengthened by a more effective and efficient international regime. Therefore, the entry into force of CTBT at the earliest possible date is of particular importance to Bulgaria.

A very important aspect of the CTBT that should always be kept in mind is that in addition to the essential functions in verifying compliance with the treaty, there are a range of civil and scientific applications for the verification technologies that can benefit the signatory states. The abundance of data and products available to the signatory states can benefit their civil and scientific activities, including, for example, natural disaster warning and preparedness, sustainable development, knowledge expansion and human welfare.

Mr. President, Bulgaria notes with content that there seems to be a new momentum for the entrance into force of the CTBT. In this connection, we would like to particularly welcome the new U.S. administration's intention to ratify and also to launch a diplomatic effort to bring on board the other states whose ratifications are required for the treaty's entry into force.

Being among the 44 countries whose signature and ratification are required for the entry into force of the CTBT, I am proud to say that Bulgaria was one of the first to do so. Our country ratified the Treaty in 1999 after having signed it in 1996. However, I have to mention with regret that, as we all know, there are still some Annex II states, which have neither signed, nor ratified the Treaty. I would like to appeal to them to do so as soon as possible.

The Bulgarian government believes that the High Level Debate on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation held this morning in the UN Security Council contributes to the positive political climate in support of the CTBT.

Mr. President,

Before I conclude, I would like to take the opportunity to express my delegation's appreciation and gratitude to the Preparatory Commission and its Provisional Technical Secretariat for their valuable work in preparing the timely implementation of all provisions of the treaty, from the very moment of its entry into force.

My government is pleased to note that the establishment of the CTBT verification regime to monitor worldwide any nuclear explosion has progressed significantly since the last conference in 2007. We welcome the significant progress made towards the completion of the International Monitoring System network in all four technologies – seismic, hydroacoustic, infrasound and radionuclide.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I hope that this Conference will provide a forum for a fruitful and substantive discussion leading to a successful conclusion. I sincerely hope that the State Parties will not focus on existing differences but rather on cooperation and on reaching consensus on how to achieve our common objective, that is bringing into force this treaty, which is so vital to the world's security, peace and prosperity.

Thank you, Mr. President!