



STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. PÉTER BALÁZS
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

**Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive
Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Article XIV)**

New York, September 24, 2009

Mr. President,

At the outset, joining previous speakers, I would like to congratulate the co-chairs of the sixth Article XIV Conference, France and Morocco, on their election to this important position. Allow me to thank also Austria and Costa Rica for their tireless efforts in coordinating the Article XIV process on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Their “shared Presidency” worked effectively and it truly demonstrated the global character of our responsibility for the Treaty’s future.

Hungary fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the Representative of Sweden on behalf of the European Union.

This Article XIV Conference is another important occasion for all of us to reaffirm our full commitment to the principles and goals of the CTBT.

Recent events confirmed that this commitment and support is indeed invaluable for the integrity of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The underground nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on 25 May 2009 underlined not only the urgency of the entry into force of the CTBT, but it also highlighted the need for the rapid completion of the International Monitoring System (IMS) of the CTBTO. In this context, we should once again take good note of the progress achieved by the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO in establishing the IMS. Hungary welcomes this development, as it offers a realistic perspective for an effective verification regime being in place by the time the treaty enters into force. We hope that the IMS will continue to reap scientific and civilian benefits, including also the early detection of tsunamis and other natural disasters.

Hungary believes that in order to fulfill its mandate, the Preparatory Commission needs both our political and financial support. We urge Member States to maintain and, where possible, increase their assistance to the activities of the PrepCom. We remain committed to continue rendering personal and financial assistance to the CTBT.

But the central issue on our agenda today is of course the so far elusive entry into force of the CTBT.

We urge those States which have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty without delay and without preconditions. The Republic of Hungary was among the first countries to sign and ratify the CTBT. We believe that the existing moratorium on nuclear test explosions is an important measure, which must be maintained. At the same time Hungary wishes to emphasize, especially in view of the DPRK's recent actions, that the moratorium cannot be a long-term alternative to the ratification and entry into force of the CTBT.

We have to acknowledge that today, based on the number of States Signatories, the Treaty represents a universally accepted norm. In view of this fact it is especially absurd that the CTBT cannot become legally binding because of missing Annex 2 ratifications. Hungary welcomes the improved prospects for ratification in some of the remaining nine states listed in Annex 2 whose ratifications are necessary for the Treaty's entry into force. We especially welcome the new US administration's intention to move forward with this issue.

Overall, efforts for the universalisation of the Treaty are gaining momentum, which has to be preserved and further strengthened through our common initiatives. We sincerely hope that this Conference, through a substantial outcome and a clear demonstration of our unity, will be successful in bringing us closer to our shared goal of the entry into force of the CTBT.

Thank you.