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STATEMENT
by the Head of the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
(24-25 September 2009, New York)

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CO-Presidents,

On behalf of the Ukrainian delegation let me express my heartfelt congratulations on your election to the Presidency of this important Conference. I believe that under your chairmanship the Conference will achieve positive results and pave the way to more ratifications as well as bring new participants to the Treaty. We pledge our support and full cooperation in the pursuit of a productive and successful outcome of this forum.

CO-Presidents,

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 1996 after long and extensive negotiations. It was one of the milestone achievements within the international community's contributions to global peace and security, an indispensable step towards nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

We deeply deplore the fact that thirteen years after the Treaty was opened for signature, the CTBT has still not entered into force. Despite the aspiration to achieve early entry into force of the Treaty that has been so clearly expressed by the international community on numerous occasions, today it is obvious that vigorous efforts are still needed to ensure its universalization.

We hope that this conference will create further momentum resulted in more States signing and ratifying the Treaty. We call upon those Annex 2 States whose ratification is required for Treaty's entry into force to sign and ratify it without delay and unconditionally.

We are confident that a special responsibility in this regard lies on the Nuclear-Weapon States. In this context Ukraine notes with satisfaction the importance that the new US Administration attaches to the CTBT's entry into force. Ukraine welcomes the US President Barak Obama's intention to work towards ratification of the CTBT. We believe that the soonest realization of this intention will constitute an important step towards CTBT entry into force and will give a strong and positive impetus to others.

Pending its Entry into Force, Ukraine continues to urge all States to maintain moratorium on any nuclear test explosions and to refrain from any action contrary to the purposes of the Treaty.

CO-Presidents,

Nowadays, when we all witness changes in the field of international security and stability, the prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is one of the most important challenges facing the world. Ukraine is convinced that effective multilateral approach to security is the best way to maintain international order.

By aiming to hamper the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons, the CTBT has an essential role to play in strengthening global peace and security, preventing proliferation of materials, technologies and knowledge that can be used for development of nuclear weapons.

In light of the nuclear test conducted by the DPRK in May 2009 the need for earliest possible date of the entry into force of the Treaty has gained renewed urgency. We underscore also importance of the timely build-up of the International Monitoring System, as well as the development of the On Site Inspection regime.

In this connection we support an idea on preparing by the Provisional Technical Secretariat a roadmap on what needs to be done to get the CTBT verification system ready for entry into force of the Treaty. My country is committed to continue making a strong contribution towards this goal.

CO-Presidents,

The verification system is at the core of the CTBT. Ukraine is encouraged by the CTBTO Preparatory Commission's efforts to establish the Treaty's verification machinery. Substantial progress has been made in building up this system since the last Article XIV Conference in 2007. Ukraine is confident that an operational monitoring and verification system will provide a credible and effective way to monitor compliance with the Treaty.

We also support the decision to explore the ways of possible practical contribution of the CTBT verification system to the tsunami warning systems and possibly other disaster alert systems. In the framework of future CTBTO's verification system, Ukraine is prepared for the Treaty's entry into force. We keep our Primary Seismology Station ready to work in full-scale regime under the International Monitoring System.

CO-Presidents,

Ukraine welcomes the measures to promote the CTBT's entry into force contained in the Final Declaration and expresses its readiness to closely participate in realization of these measures within the limits of its resources.

We are of the opinion that effective implementation of measures such as organization of regional seminars to increase awareness of the Treaty; promoting understanding of the Treaty and demonstrating the benefits of the civil and scientific applications of the verification technologies; continuing to provide States with legal assistance with respect to their national implementation processes as well as establishing a contact point for better exchange and dissemination of relevant information will efficiently serve for the Treaty promotion.

We recognize and welcome extensive range of bilateral and joint outreach efforts by signatories and ratifiers to encourage and assist States that have not yet signed and ratified the Treaty to do so.

CO-Presidents,

We support the draft Final Declaration of the Conference and Measures to promote the entry into force of the CTBT and reaffirm our determination to further contribute to the efforts aimed at achieving the goals stipulated by the Treaty.

In conclusion I would like to express a strong hope for a constructive dialogue and successful outcome of the Conference.

Thank you for your attention.

