



The Permanent Mission of Iraq to United Nations

Statement delivered

By

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Before

Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban treaty (CTBT)

New York 27th of September 2013

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Mr. Presidents,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Indonesia and Hungary for assuming the co-presidency of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban treaty (CTBT). I am confident that this important meeting will provide a strong message for accelerating the entry into force of CTBT treaty which constitutes a key pillar in the disarmament and non-proliferation system.

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciations to Ambassador Tibor Toth the previous Executive Secretary of the preparatory Commission for the CTBT for his great efforts during his assignment.

Also I take this opportunity to congratulate Lassina Zerbo for his election as Executive Secretary of the preparatory Commission for the CTBT, wish him all success, and assure him our full support and cooperation in his new post.

Mr. Presidents,

I have always been keen on taking part in this meeting that is held biennially on the sideline of the United Nations General Assembly. Yet this time, my participation has a particular meaning, for it is the very first meeting taking place after Iraq' ratification of the CTBT. On 9th of October 2012, the Iraqi Council of Representatives approved the law on its ratification following its signature by the Iraqi government in 19th of August 2008. We consider both the CTBT and the NPT with its three following interrelated pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation, peaceful use of nuclear energy, as the main cornerstones in this system.

Iraq's ratification of the CTBT comes in the context of a number of treaties which Iraq is committed to, in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The most recent ones are the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism signed on 13th of May 2013 and the ratification of the Additional Protocol to the

Iraqi comprehensive safeguards agreement with the IAEA on 10th of October 2012. The Iraq's accession to the CTBT treaty represents a clear signal of its credibility in giving up seeking to acquire the weapons of mass destruction, according to article 9/E of the Iraqi constitution, and it is a positive proof of the new policy of Iraq to work and cooperate with the international community in achieving the goals aimed at disarmament, non-proliferation, and maintenance of the international peace and security.

Mr. Presidents,

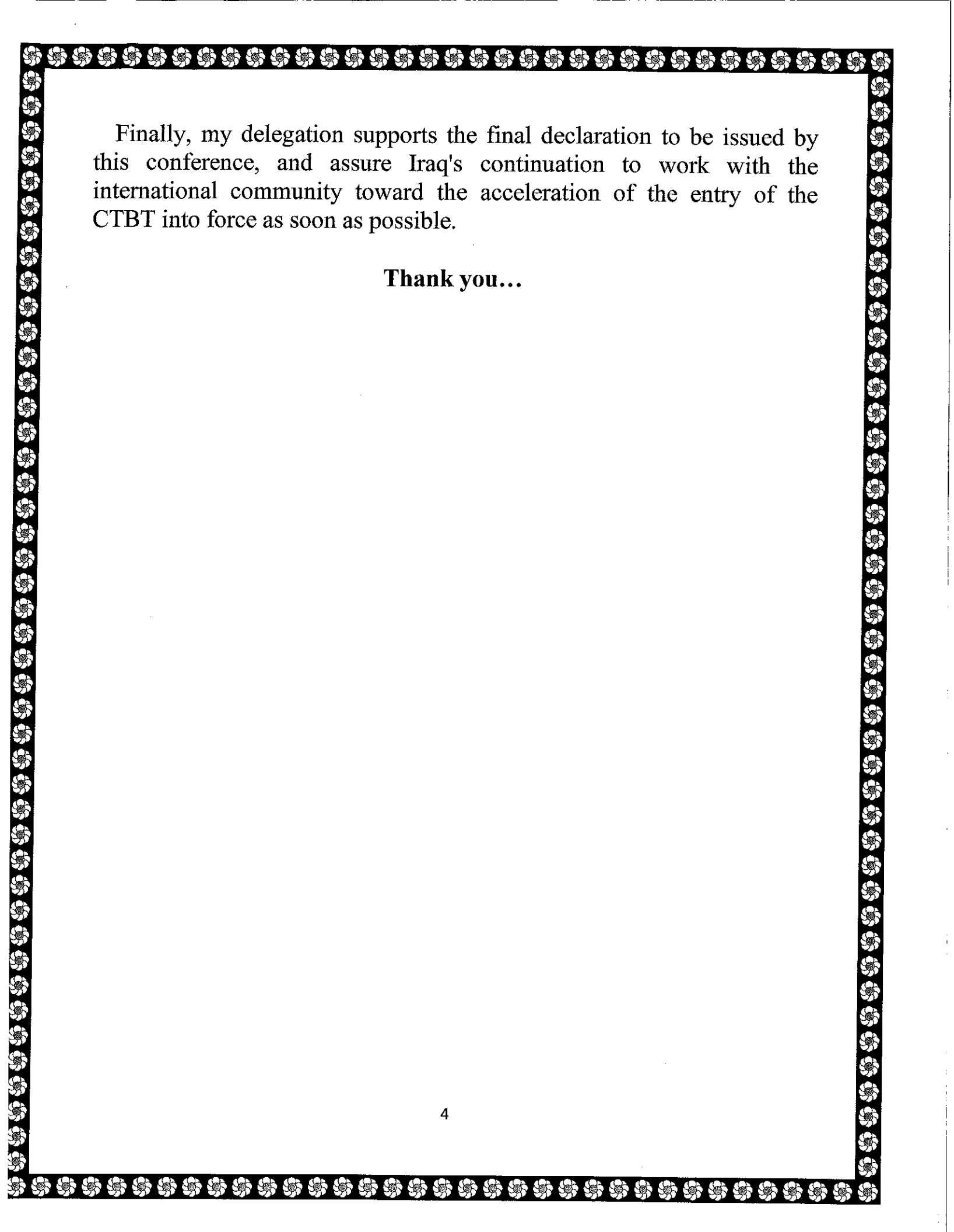
The entry into force of the CTBT will provide it with a legal mandatory force in addition to its political and moral liability. This will enhance the effectiveness of the comprehensive system of disarmament and will contribute to the acceleration of making the Middle East a Free Zone of nuclear weapon and WMDs. The security and stability in the Middle East require, not only the ratification of the CTBT and NPT by all states of the region but also support mobilization in order to convene a conference in Helsinki as soon as possible in 2013. This would help prevent fears for nuclear arms race from becoming a reality.

The CTBT is likewise considered an efficient monitoring system for disaster mitigation with its verification system, which when complete, will consist of 337 monitoring facilities spread around the globe. This global system of verification will help for earlier alert of tsunami and equally help monitoring the distribution of radiation in the event of nuclear accident.

Therefore, for the benefit of peace and security, the states that have not yet signed the CTBT and the signatory states should take the initiative to ratify it.

Mr. President,

It is no doubt that the world would be much safer, for all of us and for future generations, without either nuclear weapons or all other WMDs, but reality, however, indicates that terrorist groups might be able to obtain the necessary technology and material to produce such weapons.



Finally, my delegation supports the final declaration to be issued by this conference, and assure Iraq's continuation to work with the international community toward the acceleration of the entry of the CTBT into force as soon as possible.

Thank you...