



PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
and
PRESIDENT, 2010 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE

On the Occasion of the
Article XIV Conference on
Facilitating the Entry Into Force of the CTBT

23 September 2011
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; 3:00-6:00pm
Conference Room 4, NLB, UNHQ

Your Excellency, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Your Excellency, Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico,
Your Excellency, Mr. Carl Bildt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden,
Excellencies, Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Allow me to convey the firm and steadfast support of the Philippines for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty or CTBT, which is recognized as an essential instrument for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. The high turnout of States for this Conference is a manifestation of the importance accorded by the international community to the CTBT.

Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines views the CTBT as a key confidence building mechanism to promote cooperation with other States in resolving issues that have ramifications on regional and global security. As a signatory and ratifying State, and as an active player in various disarmament fora, the Philippines has consistently supported the call for early entry into force of the CTBT.

The Philippines views the CTBT as a potent instrument for disarmament that can stop the qualitative development of nuclear weapons. Its effectiveness lies in the universal adherence by States to the letter and intent of the Treaty. In this regard my delegation welcomes the 182 States that have signed and the 154 that have ratified the CTBT, including 35 whose ratifications are necessary for its entry into force. The Philippines urges all remaining States, especially those 9 States whose signatures and ratifications are necessary for entry into force of the Treaty to take the necessary steps without further delay.

In its capacity as regional volunteer in promoting activities enhancing the entry into force of the Treaty, the Philippines remains committed in working for the eventual ratification by countries in the Asia Pacific region, particularly by ASEAN Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

It has been more than a decade since the CTBT opened for signature in New York in the meantime both the 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences have given the Treaty prominence in their respective outcome documents. The 2000 Review Conference listed the early entry into force and the moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions as steps 1 and 2 of the 13 Practical Steps. The 2010 Review Conference "reaffirms the vital importance of the entry into force of the CTBT as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime." Furthermore, Actions 10 to 14 of the Conclusions and Recommendations section of the Final Document enumerate the steps that need

to be taken. The Philippines reminds States Parties to the NPT to implement and abide by these action points, especially Action 11 wherein “all States commit to refrain from nuclear test explosions.”

Mr. Chairman,

Although some States have pledged voluntary testing moratoriums, these are not enough. These pledges must be enshrined into permanent and legally-binding commitments in order to send a clear message that the international community does not condone the acquisition or development of nuclear weapons.

The Philippines recognizes that In order for the objectives of the CTBT to be fully realized, it is essential that all countries that possess nuclear weapons capability adhere to the Treaty. The Philippines calls upon these countries to lead the way in supporting the CTBT.

Mr. Chairman,

As a manifestation of their strong political support and commitment to the Treaty, States Signatories have infused significant investments in the establishment of a verification system mandated by the Treaty in preparation for its entry into force. The Philippines has contributed by hosting three stations which are part of the International Monitoring System (IMS).

The Philippines continues to advocate for the utilization of the IMS facilities for various civil and humanitarian purposes and capacity development initiatives pending the Treaty's entry into force, especially considering the substantial investments that have been made into its build-up. The Philippines consistently pays its assessed contribution to the regular budget in full and on time, and wishes to avail of the full benefits of the IMS facilities.

The IMS proved its worth when it was able to successfully detect the nuclear test explosions of the DPRK. This should allay the fears of some States that other countries would be able to conduct nuclear test explosions and avoid detection, thus making the treaty ineffectual.

Aside from being a nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation tool, the IMS also has valuable civilian applications, such as providing tsunami warnings. The 2004 and 2011 tsunamis highlight the importance of having this system fully operational, for it could give adequate warning of impending disasters, thus saving lives. At the height of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accident, the IMS air particulate monitoring station in the Philippines, PHP52, being serviced by the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI), was utilized to monitor radionuclide concentrations in the Philippine atmosphere. The data from PHP52 station provided the Government important information on the extent of radioactive contamination in air particulates on which to base, among other

inputs, the assessment of the impact of the nuclear accident on the health and safety of Filipinos as well as on the environment.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, several developments in the field of disarmament give us a reason to be hopeful. We must continue to build on positive steps undertaken in 2010, such as the negotiation of New START by the US and Russia, the positive results of the Nuclear Security Summit and the successful 2010 NPT Review Conference. The CTBT's entry into force seems like the logical next step forward. It is the Philippines' sincere wish that it finally enter into force.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.