



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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

NEW YORK, 21 SEPTEMBER 2005

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your election to the Presidency of this important meeting. I assure you of the full support of my delegation. I am confident that under your able guidance, this Conference will come to a successful conclusion.

Mr. President,

Today's security challenges, especially proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, require concerted action by the international community. Unfortunately, the Summit Outcome Document that we adopted last week failed to address the pressing issues of non-proliferation and disarmament. However, this should not discourage us. On the contrary, it should enhance our resolve to work together in order to give a new life and energy into these issues.

Mr. President,

We regard the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as a fundamental pillar of non-proliferation, together with Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its Safeguards regime. The entry into force of the CTBT will no doubt strengthen this regime. Today, this is all the more required given the failure of the NPT Review Conference last May.

Mr. President,

In the past 9 years, the CTBT has covered remarkable ground. Today, with 176 signatures and 125 ratifications, the Treaty is firmly entrenched in its path towards achieving universal adherence. The addition of 8 signatures and 21 ratifications since the 2003 Conference is a testament to the progress being made to this end.

Another achievement during this period has been the development of a global network of monitoring stations and facilities for verification purposes. I am pleased to announce that the monitoring station established in Turkey is now fully operational.

In spite of these achievements, the Treaty is still yet to enter into force. Being located in a region of particular concern to global non-proliferation efforts, Turkey appeals once again all states to sign and ratify the Treaty.

We should spare no effort to make sure that the CTBT enters into force as soon as possible. Outreach activities to this end should continue.

In this context, I should express our appreciation to the Special Representative and the Article 14 Coordinator for their efforts in promoting the Treaty.

Mr. President,

Pending CTBT's entry into force, the moratorium on nuclear explosions should continue. Needless to say, voluntary moratorium cannot provide a lasting substitute to a permanent, legally binding and internationally verifiable commitment offered by the CTBT. Therefore, our ultimate goal should always remain to ensure the entry into force of the CTBT.

Mr. President,

The Final Declaration that we hope to adopt at the end of this Conference provides us a good roadmap in our efforts for the next two years. Turkey fully supports the measures outlined in this Declaration and is ready to do its share to achieve its final goal.

Thank you.