

Statement
by
H.E. Ambassador T. A. Samodra Sriwidjaja
Head of the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia,
At the Conference on Facilitating the Entry Into Force
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,
Vienna, 3-5 September 2003

Mr. President,

The Indonesian delegation wishes to express its congratulations to you on your unanimous election to preside over our deliberations. We remain confident that under your able guidance and leadership, our deliberations will reach a fruitful conclusion and successful outcome. Let me also avail myself of this opportunity to extend our felicitations to the other members of the Bureau.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation and duly take note of the comprehensive report of the Executive Secretary, Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann, which provides useful background for our work.

We would also like to associate ourselves with the statement delivered by my colleague, Ambassador Hussein Haniff of Malaysia on behalf of the NAM.

Furthermore, my delegation welcomes the ratification of the CTBT by Algeria, as one of the 44 states listed in Annex 2. This ratification exemplifies the significant progress being made towards the universalization of the Treaty.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to reiterate the important role played by the CTBT regime to contribute effectively to the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security.

As unequivocally stated in the Preamble of the Treaty, an end to all nuclear explosions will constitute a meaningful step in the realization of a systemic process to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Furthermore, the most effective way to achieve an end to nuclear testing is through the conclusion of a universal and internationally and effectively

verifiable comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty, which has long been one of the highest priority objectives of the international community in the field of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

Mr. President,

In our on-going endeavors to facilitate the early entry into force of the CTBT, amid the discouraging developments facing us today, some positive encouragements have bolstered our hopes of achieving this noble goal. The level and pace of signatures and ratifications epitomize the strong support for the Treaty by the international community. Although the Treaty has not yet come into force since it was opened for signature in 1996, it is nonetheless heartening to witness an increasing number of ratifying countries which now stands at 104 and the signatories states at 168.

We are also particularly encouraged by the momentum developed in building the global infrastructure for verification which is an important component of the Treaty in ensuring compliance with its provisions of no nuclear tests being conducted in the atmosphere, underground or under water. This regime including the establishment of the International Monitoring System (IMS) which consists of 321 seismic, hydroacoustic, infrasound and radionuclide stations and 16 radionuclide laboratories, continues to develop steadily around the globe. The IMS continues to transmit data that have been collected to the International Data Centre (IDC) to be analysed.

My delegation is of the view that the verification technologies of the IMS and the data, technologies and products of the IDC have the potential to offer, in addition, a range of useful civil and scientific applications which could contribute to sustainable development and human welfare. These civil and scientific applications demonstrate, in part, how states signatories could gain additional benefits from participation in the Treaty verification regime.

Mr. President,

We realize that this Conference is a milestone to maintain efforts towards the early entry into force of the CTBT and to confirm the confidence of States in the Treaty as one of the major pillars for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

In line with the message of the UN Secretary-General that obstacles still remained to the entry into force of the Treaty, which would cause the delay of achieving a comprehensive nuclear-test ban and thereby might further the risk of resuming nuclear testing. Aware of its responsibility as a country listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty and the importance of sustained progress towards ratification, Indonesia will continue to make concerted efforts to expedite the process of ratification that is still underway.

In this connection, I would like to express my appreciation to the Executive Secretary, Ambassador Wolfgang Hofmann for his official visit to Indonesia, from 19-21 June 2003 to add further impetus to this ratification process by conducting productive meetings with the Minister of Research and Technology and other high-ranking officials as well as the Members of Parliament concerned with this matter.

Mr. President,

To conclude my statement, I would like to reiterate our unequivocal commitment to the enhancement of international peace and security by establishing a global nuclear test-ban regime. It is our fervent hope that this Conference will accelerate the early entry into force of the CTBT.

Thank you, Mr. President.