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STATEMENT

**by the Head of the Delegation of the Russian Federation
at the Third Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,**

**Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the International Organizations in Vienna,
Ambassador Grigory V. Berdennikov**

Vienna, 3 September 2003

Dear Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to welcome you, representative of friendly Finland, to the Presidency of our forum. You can fully count on our constructive collaboration on all aspects of the work of this Conference.

Mr. President,

Almost one decade has passed since the mankind moved away from a fierce ideological, political and military confrontation.

However, one must admit that our hopes for a rapid progress towards a new, more secure world have not yet realized. The threat of a total nuclear destruction of our civilization has been replaced by other challenges. The entire system of international relations remains subject to hard trials. The highest priority today is to restore and strengthen the unity of the international community in attaining common objectives in the field of global stability and cooperation on a solid basis of international law. Mankind has no alternative to trying jointly to improve and universalize collective security mechanisms.

Russia strongly supports further enhancement and development of the international legal basis for strategic stability and international security. We proceed from the fact that political and diplomatic methods of solving non-proliferation and disarmament problems are far from being exhausted and must be used more effectively.

In this connection, we stress in particular the importance of the Russian-American Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions which has entered into force, as well as the importance of the Russian proposal on building a global system to counteract emerging challenges and threats submitted to the UN for consideration, and note the importance of substantive preparations for the 2005 NPT Review Conference.

Mr. President,

We are confident that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is an essential component of the international security system. This is why the agenda of our forum is as relevant as ever.

We are glad to note that since the second Conference a number of states signed and ratified the CTBT. We welcome the responsible decision taken by those states.

At the same time, we can't but feel concerned over the evolution of the situation around the prospects of entry in force of this most important Treaty. Seven years passed since the CTBT was opened for signing and this meeting is already our third meeting, but the Treaty signed by an overwhelming majority of nations and ratified by 104 states, including 32 states whose ratification of the CTBT is necessary for its entry into force, remains hostage of the political will of only 12 states.

In this connection we would like to emphasize that these states should realize their special responsibility for the fate of the Treaty.

Having ratified the CTBT already three years ago Russia continues to take an active part in the joint efforts aimed at ensuring an earliest entry into force of the Treaty in accordance with the provisions of its Article XIV. It is known that our country was a co-sponsor of the Joint Statement on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty adopted by Ministers of Foreign Affairs - by "CTBT friends" - at the 57th UN GA Session, as well as of the last UN GA First Committee's resolution on support for the Treaty.

We are convinced that facilitating the entry into force of the CTBT and its universalization character meet national interests of all states.

We wish to emphasize once again the need for all signatory States to fulfill their main obligations under the Treaty, not to violate the spirit and letter of the CTBT in a period proceeding its entry into force and to observe the moratorium on nuclear tests. This is the position our country intends to stick to on condition

that other nuclear powers take the same approach to their commitments. In this connection, we cannot but express our serious concern with the plans of developing new types of nuclear warheads, all the more that they are accompanied by a decision to cut the timeframe needed to get ready for conducting nuclear tests. At the same time, I would like to specify once again that we consider voluntary support for the moratorium on nuclear tests as an important step which, however, can not replace attaining a more vital objective, that is, the CTBT entering into force.

Mr. President,

Russia is satisfied with the progress and pace of activities aimed at establishing all the elements of international mechanism to control the compliance with the Treaty which is the main task of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission. We are confident that the technical level of such a verification mechanism within the framework of the Treaty along with modern national means of monitoring will make it impossible to conceal any attempts to violate the Treaty. Nevertheless we can not accept arguments of those who delay the CTBT ratification referring to insufficient readiness of the verification regime and its low efficiency.

We also wish to point out the necessity of timely and complete implementation by all States Signatories of their obligations concerning participation in the work of the Commission, payment of contributions in its budget.

Mr. President,

Our delegation is ready to support the plan of action of the international community to facilitate the entry into force of the CTBT that is contained in the draft final declaration of the Conference and to take an active part in its implementation. We would like to express the hope that our work would result in an tangible intensification of versatile activities with a view to remedy the situation around the Treaty. We must all realize that the fate of the CTBT will

remain in question until such activities get intensified and the nations on whom the CTBT entry into force depends join it as a result.

In conclusion, we call once again on those countries that have not signed or ratified the Treaty and, first of all, those on which its entry into force depends to do it without delay and any preconditions.

Thank you, Mr. President.