

Delegation of Poland

STATEMENT

by

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Under-Secretary of State

Head

of the Delegation of the Republic of Poland
to the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Vienna, 3 September 2003.

Let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. President, on your election to this responsible function. Allow me also to express our thanks to the Government of Austria for hosting the Conference. May I also take advantage of this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization and his staff for their work.

Poland has joined the statement of the European Union. Let me add a few observations and remarks based on the experience gained through Poland's active involvement in the work of the CTBT Organization, including Preparatory Commission and Provisional Technical Secretariat.

Poland attaches great importance to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the role of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization. Poland signed and notified the Treaty well before the *First Facilitating Entry into Force Conference* because we are convinced that overall rejection of nuclear tests under stringent control of the CTBTO would be an essential contribution to increase global security. I wish to reaffirm Poland's commitment to support the Treaty.

The Preparatory Commission started and successfully continues the task of developing the verification of nuclear test ban. The Treaty and the work of the Preparatory Commission have considerably raised the awareness of the risks of proliferation of nuclear weapons. Poland is fully convinced that CTBT remains one of the most needed instruments of nuclear security and non-proliferation. We should spare no efforts to achieve our goal of putting the Treaty in force.

The effective prevention against growing danger of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of their delivery requires all States to implement without delay the international agreements, non-proliferation norms and export control regulations.

The effectiveness of non-proliferation and disarmament efforts being taken by the States and international organizations greatly depends on the extent to which the international community is able to adapt the existing non-proliferation norms, regimes and procedures to new challenges and threats.

The strenuous work of the Preparatory Commission as well as the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the CTBTO has led to a steady strengthening of the verification regime. This was achieved by providing high-tech equipment to the International Monitoring System, recruiting skilful and dedicated international staff to the CTBTO and by providing the necessary financial resources. These resources should be maintained at a sufficient level.

Poland calls upon the Preparatory Commission to continue its work to promote understanding of the Treaty. We also support the enhancement of verification regime. This will not only deter possible violations of Treaty provisions, but will offer participating States concrete benefits of applications of accessible technologies for peaceful and scientific purposes.

Poland holds its proposal submitted to Executive Secretary in 1999 to include our two seismic stations in the International Monitoring System immediately after bringing the Treaty into effect.

Supporting universal adherence to both the CTBT and NPT, we strongly believe that both treaties create new comprehensive and mutually reinforcing pillars and cornerstones of a nuclear non-proliferation security environment.

As evidence of our long-lasting endorsement of the CTBT, for years Poland has actively supported and co-sponsored UN resolutions calling for bringing the Treaty into effect. We will do it also at the 58-th session of the UN GA.

This Conference should deliver a clear and strong message to the world to take all necessary political and diplomatic steps to invigorate the process of bringing the Treaty into effect.

Therefore, we support the draft Final Declaration of the Conference, indicating in its operational part various important measures to promote bringing the Treaty into effect as soon as possible, including *inter alia* public relations activities as well as supporting continued work by the Preparatory Commission and the Provisional Secretariat.

We look forward to a constructive debate, which will contribute significantly to the ongoing task of the comprehensive nuclear test ban.