

Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations, Vienna



STATEMENT BY H.E. DATO' HUSSEIN HANIFF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE CTBTO

ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT STATES SIGNATORIES AND RATIFIERS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

AT THE CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CTBT

VIENNA WEDNESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2003

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Statement by H.E. Dato' Hussein Haniff, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the CTBTO on behalf of the NAM States Signatories and Ratifiers to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT Vienna, Austria 3-5 September 2003

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the NAM States Signatories and Ratifiers to the CTBT, allow me at the outset, to express our deep shock and dismay at the recent bomb attack against the Headquarters of the UN Mission in Baghdad which has killed at least 23 people including Mr. Sergio Viera de Mello, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Iraq, as well as injuring many others. We extend our sincere condolences and deepest symphaties to the victims, bereaved families and other affected individuals as a result of the attack. We condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms and we believe that such attacks cannot break the will of the international community to continue to extend all possible assistance to the Iraqi people to regain their national sovereignty. We are also convinced that the UN would continue to play its role in Iraq.

Mr. President,

2. I wish to congratulate you on your election as President of the Conference. I am confident that with your wise guidance, positive results could be reached out of this Conference.

3. I would like to congratulate Amb. Gronberg, Permanent Representative of Finland in Vienna for the excellent and patient manner in which he has conducted the informal consultations (leading to the consensus) on the draft Final Declaration of the Conference. Our deep appreciation also goes to the Secretariat for preparing the necessary documents.

4. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the recent ratification of the Treaty by Algeria, a member state of NAM. Algeria's ratification is indeed very

significant because it is one of the 44 states listed in the annex 2 to the Treaty whose signatures and ratifications are required for the entry into force of the Treaty. We hope that Algeria's ratification would encourage other countries in the annex 2 of the Treaty to do the same. At the same time, I would also like to welcome the ratification of the Treaty by all states since the last Article XIV Conference concluded on 13 November 2001 in New York, including by NAM member states namely Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Jamaica, Kuwait, Mauritania, Niger, Oman and Venezuela.

Mr. President,

5. Today is indeed a historic day for NAM as this is the first time the Movement is participating at the Article XIV conference. I assure you of the Movement's full support and cooperation.

6. At the XIII Summit Meeting of the NAM Heads of State or Government held in Kuala Lumpur last February 2003, the Movement took several decisions on the issues of disarmament and international security. It is pertinent to highlight that the Summit expressed its strong concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and unilaterally imposed prescriptions and in this context strongly underlined and affirmed that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the UN Charter, provided the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues.

7. In accordance with NAM's long-standing and principled position for the total elimination of all forms of nuclear testing, we would like to reiterate our support for the objectives of the Treaty as we strongly believe that the universal adherence to the Treaty, including by the five nuclear-weapon States, would contribute towards the process of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and therefore towards the enhancement of international peace and security. We believe that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realised, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the five nuclear-weapon States, to nuclear disarmament, would be essential. As required by the Treaty, this Conference is to consider and decide measures consistent with international law that may be taken to

accelerate the ratification process in order to facilitate its entry into force. It is our hope that further progress could be achieved in the ratification process as a result of this Conference.

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8. Since the opening for signature in New York of the CTBT seven years ago on 24th September 1996, the Treaty has become an international standard to judge the level of acceptance among the international community of its aim to ban forever all forms of nuclear weapons test explosions as reflected by the signing of the Treaty of 168 states or more than 87% of the world's states, and the ratification by 104 States. Despite this encouraging level of acceptance and the fact that two Article XIV conferences have been convened, the entry into force of the Treaty is still uncertain. This is due to the fact that so far only 32 States, including the recent ratification of a NAM member state namely Algeria, out of 44 States listed in annex 2 to the Treaty, whose signature and ratification are required for the entry into force of the Treaty, have ratified the Treaty. In this regard we call upon those States especially the two nuclear-weapon States to ratify the Treaty and urge states with nuclear capabilities to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay.

9. We believe that the five nuclear-weapons States have a special responsibility to see that the Treaty comes into force. They bear special responsibilities, not only because they are among the 44, but also because they are expected to provide the leadership in making the ban on the test a reality on account of their position. It is our belief that any measure of success of the CTBT would only be gauged when all the five nuclear-weapons States, as well as the remaining countries in Annex 2 that have not signed and ratified, are on board. We are therefore concerned and disappointed that one nuclear weapon State has taken the position not to proceed with the ratification of the Treaty. We hope that it would reconsider its position. It is also our view that the positive decision on the part of the nuclear-weapon States, would have the desired impact on the progress towards entry into force of the Treaty. We believe that early ratification by the two nuclear-weapon States would pave the way and encourage the remaining countries listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty, especially the three States with nuclear capabilities, which have not even signed the Treaty, to eventually sign and ratify. We believe that the principle of leadership by

example should be displayed by the nuclear-weapon States in this important endeavour.

We commend the five nuclear-weapon States for observing the moratorium on 10. nuclear weapon test explosions since the Treaty's opening for signature. We strongly feel that it is of prime importance for the nuclear-weapon States to adhere to this voluntary moratorium pending entry into force of the Treaty. However, the moratorium does not substitute the signing, ratification and entry into force of the CTBT. In addition, we recall the undertakings given by the nuclear-weapon States at the time of the negotiation of the CTBT to the fact that the Treaty would halt both vertical and horizontal proliferation, thereby preventing the appearance of new types of nuclear charges, as well as nuclear weapons based on new physical principles. The nuclearweapon States stated at that time that the only steps that would continue would be to maintain the safety and reliability of the remaining or existing weapons, which would not involve nuclear explosions. In this regard, we call upon States to continue to refrain from conducting nuclear tests for the development or further improvement of nuclear weapons. We wish to reemphasise the urgency and the importance of achieving the universality of the principles of the non-proliferation regime both vertically and horizontally.

Mr. President,

11. NAM remains fully committed to its obligations and commitments under the NPT and the agreements reached at both the 1995 and 2000 NPT Review Conferences. In this regard we call upon the five nuclear-weapons States to honour their commitments to the full implementation of the 13 practical steps to advance systematically and progressively towards a nuclear-weapon-free world. The first among these 13 practical steps is the early entry into force of the CTBT.

12. We express our serious concern about the Nuclear Posture Review as advocated by the United States which considers, among others, the development of new types of nuclear weapons through resumption of nuclear testing. It is our view that the development of new types of nuclear weapons is in contravention with the

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assurances provided by the five nuclear-weapon States at the time of the conclusion of the negotiations of the CTBT, and within the letter and spirit of the Treaty.

13. We call upon all states to continue to support the development of the verification regime capable of detecting nuclear explosions anywhere in the world as required by the Treaty. The execution of this formidable task has been ably handled by the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO under the leadership of its Executive Secretary Mr. Wolfgang Hoffmann. We wish to commend the excellent work being carried out by the Secretariat. The verification regime, upon entry into force of the Treaty, will represent the most tangible effort and support of the international community towards the objectives of the Treaty.

14. Let me conclude by reaffirming the Movement's full support for the objectives of the CTBT. We firmly believe that the early entry into force of the Treaty, which is intended to enforce a comprehensive ban on nuclear test explosions, and to stop the qualitative development of nuclear weapons, would pave the way towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons which would make this world a safer place.

Thank you.

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