

AFGHANISTAN



STATEMENT

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**CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE
ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY**

Vienna, 3 – 5 September 2003

Allow me at the outset, Mr. President, to extend my warmest congratulations to you on your election as President of this important gathering. My delegation is confident that, under your guidance, the Conference will be able to obtain its objective through highlighting the importance and relevance of the CTBT with a view to expediting its earliest Entry into Force.

The Afghan delegation also would like to express its sincere thanks to Mr. Hoffmann, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission and his team for their valuable efforts for convening this Conference.

Let me, Mr. President, express my special thanks to the government of Austria for hosting the Conference in this beautiful and historical City of Vienna.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished delegates! It is a great honour and privilege for me to participate and speak on behalf of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan at the Third Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT.

Afghanistan, having suffered tremendously as a victim of international terrorism, interference, war, conflicts and destruction, highly values peace and security. As a traditionally peace loving country, Afghanistan is embarking now upon reconstruction of its social, economic and political infrastructure and strives to strengthen its status in the political map of the world.

In the light of its current vulnerable situation, however, and being the neighbor of States with nuclear capability, Afghanistan is extremely concerned about the proliferation of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction. Furthermore, Afghanistan, fighting alongside with the international coalition against terrorism, is worried about the eventual transfer of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction to the evil hands of ~~non-government elements~~ ^{irresponsible groups} such as Al-Qaida and the remnants of Taliban. For that reason, Afghanistan would encourage the establishment of nuclear free zones to eliminate the potential nuclear danger in ~~our region.~~ ^{the world,}

It is in this context that my government supports the principles of the CTBT, aiming at both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Entry into Force of the CTBT will certainly contribute to the earliest establishment of a legal framework to ensure durable peace and a safe world, free of nuclear threat.

Mr. President,

As a sovereign Member of the International Community, Afghanistan intends to play an active role in its international partnership. In interaction with the international partners, however, my country is aware of its commitments and obligations towards international conventions and treaties.

Therefore, It is my pleasure to inform the participants of this important Conference that the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan has already approved the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on August 18, 2003. The instrument of accession has been deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations as the depository of the Treaty. This is a clear demonstration of my governments readiness to co-operate for the successful implementation of CTBT.

I, therefore, would like to associate myself with the Statement made by the distinguished Representative of Malaysia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and call upon ~~Member~~ States, in particular those countries whose ratification is a pre-requisite for the Entry into Force of the CTBT, to sign and ratify the Treaty, in order to ensure a peaceful, secure and a nuclear-free world.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me express my government's sincere desire and hope for the Conference to succeed in deciding by consensus on the required measures, within the principles of international law, to accelerate the process of ratification of the Treaty.

Thank you Mr President.