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**Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the  
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

**21 — 23 September 2005**

**S T A T E M E N T**

**By**

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**United Nations  
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**Mr. President,**

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you in the Chair of this important Conference. The delegation of Bulgaria is confident that under your able leadership the Conference will adopt a set of meaningful measures to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

My distinguished colleague, Mr. Jack Straw, the UK Foreign Secretary, addressed yesterday the Conference on behalf of the European Union (EU). As an acceding country, which looks forward to an early completion of the process of its accession to the EU, Bulgaria associates itself with every word of this statement. Speaking today as a representative of Bulgaria. I would like to highlight briefly a couple of elements of our approach to the treaty and the work of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission.

**Mr. President,**

This Conference takes place just few days after the conclusion of the 2005 World Summit. Together with many other countries we regret that the Outcome Document lacks language addressing the role of non-proliferation and disarmament in the maintenance of international peace, security and stability. However discouraging, this outcome should reinforce our determination and strengthen the political will of many countries to overcome the current impasse. We truly hope that this Conference will produce a positive result by generating new momentum in the efforts to bring the CTBT into force.

A number of distinguished speakers have already pointed to the key role played by the CTBT as an indispensable tool in restraining the proliferation of nuclear weapons and in contributing to nuclear disarmament. Bulgaria strongly endorses this understanding. The CTBT is, indeed, an international instrument with great potential for global peace and security. Its full implementation would help the world address more effectively the newly emerging threats and the growing risks of nuclear proliferation.

We recognise that the difficulties that CTBT encounters on the long journey to its entry into force seem to diversify rather than disappear. Universal adherence is still a goal that needs to be pursued vigorously as a collective commitment. We have faith in the multilateral approach and remain convinced that, if nations stay together, they can make a difference in the global efforts to remove the existing obstacles.

This is the reason why Bulgaria supports the measures outlined in the draft Final Declaration of the Conference. A keynote in this new agenda for action is the need for consistency and sustained effort to bring about the conditions necessary for an early entry into force of the treaty. We share the view that, to achieve this effect, both ratifying and signatory states have to cooperate at global and regional levels.

I am glad to observe the progress made towards a universal support for the CTBT. As one of the forty-four states whose ratification is required for the CTBT entry into force, Bulgaria was amongst those who first signed and ratified the treaty. This is an expression of our determination to contribute to nuclear non-proliferation. At the same time, we note that there are several Annex 2 countries whose signature and/or ratification is still pending. I would like

to call upon these countries to consider the benefits of joining the ranks of those that have done their share in promoting the treaty.

It is encouraging that more than eight years since the last nuclear weapon test explosion the countries that are yet to ratify the treaty continue to maintain moratoria on such explosions. We hope that this situation will remain unchanged.

The Bulgarian government believes that the acceleration of the ratification process would also bring important benefits to the regional climate of security and stability. We therefore increasingly turn our attention to joint initiatives promoting cooperation at regional level.

**Mr. President,**

Before I conclude, I would like to add my word of praise to the appreciation expressed by the preceding speakers in addressing the work of the Preparatory Commission and Its Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) in Vienna.

I wish to congratulate Ambassador Tibor Toth of Hungary, the new Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission, for his energetic start in advancing the work of the PTS. We have every confidence in his resolve to continue and enhance the work initiated by his predecessor, Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffman of Germany, who has led the PTS with professional competence and consistency.

The Preparatory Commission and its PTS should be commended for their work in preparing for implementation of all provisions of the treaty at the time of its entry into force. My government is glad to note that the International Monitoring System is already capable to deliver. We welcome the progress made in building up the verification system and in providing for the provisional operation, testing and maintenance of its monitoring tools.

Bulgaria supports the idea that, in addition to its essential functions in verifying compliance with the treaty, the verification system should be capable of bringing significant scientific and civil benefits. Areas of perspective cooperation, such as environmental protection projects, earth science and technology, development of tsunami warning systems and other disaster alert systems, should be carefully examined. The disturbing images on the worldwide networks showing a real human tragedy are still vivid in our minds. We would like, therefore, to encourage a careful examination of the modalities for using data from the verification technologies to limit the impact of such disastrous events.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to express my hope that this Conference will be able to send a positive signal to the world that the ratifying states gathered in New York believe in the potential of the CTBT to contribute to a safer and more peaceful world without nuclear explosions, and that they share a strong determination to bring this treaty into force.

I thank you, Mr. President.