



PERMANENT MISSION OF SWITZERLAND TO THE
UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK

Check against delivery

4th Conference of the States Parties to facilitate the entry
into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
(CTBT Conference Article)(IV - New York, 21 -23.9.2005)

DECLARATION OF SWITZERLAND
By Ambassador Rudolf Schaller, Head of the
Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United
Nations and to the International Organisations in
Vienna

Head of the Swiss delegation

New York, 22 September 2005

Mr President,

The Swiss delegation congratulates you on your accession to the presidency of this conference and is confident that under your leadership we will succeed in giving a new impetus to the rapid entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The CTBT — the present situation

President,

We are meeting here today because nine years after the CTBT was opened for signature, the CTBT still faces a major political challenge — the fact that it has not yet entered into force.

To date, 176 States have signed the CTBT and 125 have ratified it. Switzerland particularly welcomes the most recent ratifications by the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Liechtenstein, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Togo, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu and Madagascar. By the ratifications, these States have brought the Treaty close to universality.

However, the CTBT clause governing entry into force requires ratification by 44 States which possess civil or military nuclear reactors. At this moment, 11 of these States have not ratified the Treaty and three of these States still have not signed the Treaty.

The reservations expressed by these States — some of which see nuclear weapons as having a new role which is no longer confined solely to dissuasion, while others have made their signature dependent on the resolution of regional questions — mean that there is serious uncertainty about the entry into force in the short term of the CTBT. Every year that passes without any significant developments in the situation reduces a little more the credibility of the Treaty and of its organisation, which will have increasing difficulty in reconciling its provisional nature with its growing financial needs.

The deadlock that the CTBT finds itself in was highlighted at the 7th Review Conference of the NPT in New York in May. This conference concluded without finding any consensus on a substantive final document. Moreover, certain States called in question the entire "acquis" from previous review conferences. This frustrated the

lasting and universal normative regimes which bind the largest possible number of members of the international community.

4. Switzerland has always stressed that it wishes for a rapid entry into force of the Treaty. My country therefore encourages the States Parties to continue to support the implementation of a complete system of de verification, so that this system is ready to work as soon as the CTBT comes into force, thus dispelling doubts as to the usefulness and effectiveness of the Treaty.
5. Switzerland believes that the States that have ratified the CTBT must continue through all channels to pursue their efforts to persuade other states with a view to achieving universal membership of the Treaty as a pillar of the global arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation regime. By adopting a strong draft of the final declaration, we are sending a clear message to States which up to now have delayed signing or ratifying the Treaty.
6. Finally, in the interval between now and the entry into force of the CTBT, Switzerland exhorts the entirety of the States concerned to maintain the unilateral moratoria that have been declared on their nuclear tests.

Conclusion

Mr President,

It took almost 40 years for the CTBT to be adopted. In this 60th anniversary of the tragedies of Hiroshima and of Nagasaki, humankind does not deserve to have to wait much longer for this instrument of peace and stability finally to take full effect. This 4th Art XIV Conference is being held a couple of days after the heads of state have met for the M+5 summit. It is in our common interest that this opportunity should be grasped so that the necessary conditions favouring the entry into force of the CTBT can be created as soon as possible. Switzerland calls on all delegations to work to this end and is willing to participate in all efforts to master this challenge in order to satisfy the security needs of all.

Mr President, thank you for your attention.

objective of a rapid entry into force of the CTBT, which was one of the "13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament" set out in the final document of the Review Conference in 2000. The same impasse unfortunately occurred also on the occasion of the high-level summit to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the United Nations last week. The provisions on disarmament and non-proliferation did not even find their way into the outcome document.

Measures to facilitate the entry into force of the CTBT Mr

President,

Switzerland is one of the States which chose to adhere to the CTBT. It therefore deeply regrets the situation that the CTBT finds itself in at the moment. Nevertheless, we must take this reality into account as we seek specific solutions. To this end, my delegation would like to stress the following points:

1. Switzerland expects from all the States listed in Annex 2 whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the CTBT, States which bear a particularly great responsibility, a demonstration of political commitment similar to that expressed by the majority of States which have ratified the Treaty. Such a démarche would fulfil both the objective of nuclear disarmament as underlined by Art. VI of the NPT and that of non-proliferation, all the more so as concerns about the potential link between proliferation and terrorism are increasing. In this context, my country is of the opinion that the lack of substantive results at the 7th NPT Review Conference does not in any way detract from the validity of the results of the preceding review conferences.
2. Switzerland supports the idea of encouraging the same States listed in Annex 2 that are located in regions of high tension to take the initiative of ratifying the CTBT simultaneously. By its boldness and its courage, such a step would undoubtedly have the effect of creating a degree of trust and of security capable of reducing these regional tensions.
3. Switzerland firmly believes that the multilateral mechanisms must continue to play a key role in arms control and in disarmament. Although unilateral processes may also serve this purpose, the multilateral level has the potential to create