

TEST BAN SPEECH

Mr. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, High Representative Duarte, Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Dr. Perry:

Addressing you today, I feel both honored and a deep sense of responsibility, because I am not a diplomat, a foreign minister, or an expert. Thus, I feel a duty to speak as a citizen of the planet. Bringing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty into force must not be held up any longer by the intransigence of the few. A global ban on testing will fulfill promises made to extend the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and bring coherence and credibility to the nonproliferation imperatives we all share.

Nuclear weapons threaten our very survival as no other threat. We share a duty to every citizen on the planet to curtail their proliferation, by preventing both the spread of weapons to new states and increased technical advances within existing arsenals. Regrettably this duty remains unfulfilled despite its obvious benefits and our previously stated commitments.

As a word of encouragement I would like to share a couple of thoughts about unexpected benefits to the environment of the Treaty not often recognized. The 337 monitoring facilities of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization monitor the whole globe for signs of a nuclear explosion. In doing so, they pick up almost every movement on

earth – earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, and even mine explosions. This data can be used for many different purposes, such as tsunami warning; research on the earth's core; monitoring of earthquake and volcanoes; research on oceans, and climate change research – all benefiting the global environment.

Of course, the test-ban in itself is extremely important in protecting the environment. The over 2,000 nuclear tests that were conducted between 1945 and 1996 when the CTBT opened for signature presented a clear threat not only to peace and security, but to human health and to the environment.

I am proud to have produced the 1979 film “The China Syndrome” which highlighted the imperatives of making nuclear energy plants safe from meltdowns, and I have watched carefully the resurgence of nuclear energy advocacy as the influence of economic concerns on policy considerations expands the uses of nuclear energy. It becomes even more important to universalize and bring into legal certainty the norm against testing. This is true from New York to Calcutta. The CTBT draws a clear line between permitted and prohibited nuclear activities and provides the last and final barrier against nuclear weapons development. I congratulate you for working to make that barrier strong and certain, and I, like so many of you remain committed to working with added vigor to bring the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty into force. Thank you.