

Philippine New

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**Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the  
Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty  
Vienna, 17 September 2007**

**Philippine Statement**

**Delivered by**

**H.E. Ambassador Linglingay F. Lacanlale  
Permanent Representative of the Philippines**

The Philippine Delegation would like to extend its congratulations to you, Mr./Madam President and to [H.E. Bruno Stagno Ugarte, Minister of External Relations and Culture of Costa Rica and Madam Ursula Plassnik, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria], on your election as Co-Presidents of the 5<sup>th</sup> Review Conference on facilitating the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty. We assure you of our delegation's support. We would also like to thank Ambassador Thomas Stelzer of Austria and Ambassador Ana Teresa Dengo of Costa Rica as coordinators for their excellent work on the substantive preparations for this Conference. We also thank Ambassador Jaap Ramaker and Ambassador Peter Shannon of Australia for their valuable support.

Mr/Mme President,

A quick glance at the latest number of signatories to the Treaty shows that it is nearing universality with 177 signatories and 140 ratifications. Ten more ratifications are required of the Annex II States whose ratifications are needed for the Treaty to enter into force. This is after one ratification in 2003 and another in 2006 by Vietnam. While we are encouraged by the additions to the number of ratifications, we are nevertheless concerned at the slow pace of ratifications among the Annex II States. It is evident that we must do more.

Mr./Mme. President,

The value of the Treaty as a critical tool for disarmament is unquestionable. The Philippines believes in and strongly supports the

noble objectives of the CTBT. That is why we have initiated a vigorous campaign in our region for its early entry into force.

Most recently, on 27-29 June of this year, the Philippines, in cooperation with CTBTO Preparatory Committee and the Provisional Technical Secretariat, hosted a well-attended Workshop on CTBTO International Cooperation for States of South-East Asia, the Pacific and the Far East (SEAPFE). In that workshop, the Philippines urged the participants which have not done so, to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. The workshop also provided an opportunity to heighten public awareness of the importance of the Treaty.

During the 40<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting last August, at the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum and at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference, the Philippines used the opportunity as chair to make a strong pitch for the early entry into force of the CTBT. Earlier in July, the Party States of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Commission (SEANWFZ) adopted a regional Plan of Action to advance their non-proliferation agenda which included consideration of accession to relevant international instruments such as the CTBT.

Mr./Mme President,

We welcome the many activities that have been undertaken to hasten the entry into force of the CTBT, the financial contributions of donors, in-kind support of countries that have hosted workshops and other events as well as the untiring efforts of the Executive Secretary and his staff. We must not only sustain but step up these efforts.

In this regard, my delegation supports measures that will widen our awareness-raising and advocacy campaign to include parliamentarians, particularly those in states belonging to Annex II which have not ratified the Treaty. We need to expand our network of advocates and supporters among opinion-makers such as media, key and influential personalities in civil society and NGOs who believe strongly in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Targetted and audience-specific briefings that can also serve to address specific problems and concerns of countries, visits to monitoring stations in the regions and invitations to visit CTBTO headquarters in Vienna should help raise awareness and strengthen support for the entry into force of the treaty. We see these efforts as complementing other activities of CTBTO to mobilize greater support for treaty ratification.

Mr./Mme President,

Our delegation was actively involved in the drafting of the Final Declaration and is committed to carrying out its goals. The Philippines shares the hope of other participating states that this Conference will move us closer to our immediate objective of seeing the entry into force of the Treaty and to the higher goal of securing peace and security for all the peoples of the world through the total elimination of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction. Our delegation therefore joins in calling on all States that have not done so to sign and/or ratify the Treaty without delay. To those countries whose ratification is needed for the Treaty to enter into force, we renew our call to speed up the ratification process.

Mr./Mme President,

Countries like the Philippines can only do so much in helping turn the intention of the Treaty into reality. Unless the five Nuclear Weapons States and other states with nuclear capability are on board, the treaty will not be completely effective. We believe that the five nuclear weapons States have a special responsibility to mankind to see to the entry into force of the Treaty. We call upon them to lead the way to make the ban on nuclear weapons tests a permanent reality. In this context, we wish to associate ourselves with the statement of the Ambassador of Malaysia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr./Mme President,

It has been a little over a decade since the CTBT was opened for signature in New York. We should not allow another decade to pass before its entry into force. We do not want the CTBT to become irrelevant and be overtaken by events. The Treaty has a critical role in stopping the qualitative and quantitative development of nuclear weapons. The longer entry into force is delayed, the more likely it is that certain countries will move irrevocably to acquire nuclear weapons or significantly improve their nuclear arsenal and the less likely it is that we will be able to mobilize a strong international coalition against such moves.

We have the unique opportunity and responsibility to ensure that the world we bequeath to our children and future generations after them is peaceful, safe and secure.

Thank you, Mr./Mme. President.