

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
H.E. Mr. GORDAN JANDROKOVIĆ
on the occasion of the
CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE
OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY
24 September 2009**

- On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, let me join previous speakers in congratulating His Excellency the Foreign Minister of France, Mr. Bernard Kouchner; and His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Morocco, Mr. Taïb Fassi-Fihri; on their election as presidents of this Conference.

- In sharing of the presidency by the two countries from different geographic scope the true global nature of this Treaty is once again reflected. I am confident that their leadership will steer us toward a successful outcome of the Conference and I would like to assure you of our full support and co-operation throughout.

- Allow me also to express our gratitude to the Secretary General of the UN and to the UN Secretariat for organizing this event. Our deep appreciation goes as well to the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Ambassador Tibor Toth, and his staff for their dedicated work in building the CTBTO and especially the Treaty's verification regime.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

- Croatia joined the EU statement and shares its content in its entirety.
- However I would like to add few thoughts in my national capacity. I would like to begin with stating that this meeting is taking place in very symbolic context – 13 years ago at this very same day the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was opened for signature – and in positive atmosphere created by efforts of new American administration, fruitful strategic disarmament talks and recent announcement by China and Indonesia about the CTBT.
- The Special meeting of the UN Security Council which is taking place today is further testament to this renewed spirit and importance that we attach to the world free of nuclear weapons.
- Up to now Croatia has actively participated at highest political and expert level at conferences facilitating early entry into force of the Treaty.
- Being aware of its importance, we have used each opportunity as a non-permanent member of the Security Council to further advocate the CTBT's cause and to condemn those who are conducting nuclear tests in clear violation and full disregard of international norms.
- I would like once more to call upon those states whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force to increase their efforts and help the process of delivering the Treaty.

- The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) process which is going on in parallel is already showing promising signs in strengthening this cornerstone of international co-operation and we expect that this momentum will be maintained.
- CTBT has already proved its strength and validity among global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regimes.
- Its relevance has been seriously challenged over the course of the past years albeit its verification regime acted swiftly and provided member countries with reliable information on the explosion.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates

- Croatia highly values all activities of the Provisional Technical Secretariat aiming at completion of the International Monitoring System (IMS) and welcomes strengthening of verification's regime infrastructure.
- In conclusion, let me voice my opinion that with the Final Declaration and measures to promote the entry into force of the Treaty, the cause of safer and more predictable world will be advanced and the last remnants of the Cold War will be removed. Croatia will contribute toward achieving this goal.

Ministers, Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Thank you for your attention.