



## Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Article XIV)

24 September 2009

H.E. Morten Wetland  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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Distinguished Co-Presidents,

A world free of nuclear weapons is a longstanding objective of Norway's foreign policy. Today, there is growing recognition all over the world among politicians and the public alike, that global security will be enhanced by the elimination of nuclear arms. The security of all states will be better served without such weapons.

The meeting of the UN Security Council earlier today reflects the new momentum for disarmament and non-proliferation. We must make use of this opportunity.

It is vital to reach a common perspective on how to address the nuclear threat. A legally binding and comprehensive ban on nuclear testing is of crucial importance. This is an important means of preventing the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons. And it will enhance our common efforts to avoid nuclear proliferation and a new nuclear arms race.

Norway is pleased to note that, since the last Article XIV conference in 2007, eight more states have signed the CTBT and five have ratified it, including one Annex 2 state. We reiterate our call for the remaining Annex 2 states to ratify the Treaty, and will continue to provide funding to promote ratification.

Norway welcomes the new signals from the US, and the leading role it is taking in the efforts to achieve entry into force of the CTBT. Furthermore, we welcome the positive signals by China and Indonesia with regard to ratification.

Madame President,  
Mr President,

Pending entry into force, we must uphold the existing norm of non-testing. Norway expects all states that possess nuclear weapons to maintain their unilateral moratoria. However, unilateral moratoria cannot replace legally binding obligations.

(Check against delivery)

The nuclear test carried out by the DPRK in May was a serious violation of the international non-proliferation regime. Norway deplores this action and urges the DPRK to renounce nuclear weapons and abide by the obligations set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions. We strongly encourage the DPRK to return to the Six Party talks as soon as possible.

Norway welcomes the continuous efforts to further develop the Treaty's verification regime, and greatly appreciates the work done by the Provisional Technical Secretariat ably led by Ambassador Tibor Toth. The importance of the International Monitoring System (IMS) has been clearly demonstrated in connection with the DPRK's nuclear test. We must provide both political and financial support to the CTBTO to enable this system to be completed. The argument that verification is not possible no longer holds.

A legally binding CTBT is a vital step towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. But other steps are also required to secure a comprehensive nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

We need deeper cuts in nuclear arsenals. We need to negotiate and agree on a legally binding ban on the production of fissile material for weapons purposes, and we need to address the existing stocks of fissile material.

Furthermore, we need to explore ways of reducing the importance of nuclear arms in security policies, *for example* by establishing regional nuclear weapons free zones. And we need to reduce the operational status of nuclear weapons that are deployed.

Madame President,  
Mr President,

The Final Declaration from the sixth Article XIV conference demonstrates that the signatory states are willing to work towards an early entry into force of the CTBT.

Norway hopes to see further progress on disarmament and non-proliferation at the NPT Review Conference here in New York in May next year. My Government will do its utmost to achieve progress in this area, and looks forward to cooperating closely with all of you. We need to make the world a safer place, not only for ourselves, but also for our children. We need to ensure that nuclear power is solely used for peaceful purposes to the benefit of mankind. In this respect the CTBT is of vital importance.

Thank you.