

H.E. DR. ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Secretary of the Foreign Affairs of the Philippines

**Article XIV Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the
Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
24 to 25 September 2009, UN Headquarters
New York City, New York**

Your Excellency, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,
Your Excellency, Bernard Kouchner, Foreign Minister of France,
Your Excellency, Taieb Fassi Fihri, Foreign Minister of Morocco,
Excellencies, Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Allow me to convey the firm and steadfast support of the Philippines for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, an essential instrument for nuclear weapons control and disarmament.

The high turnout of states for this historic Conference is an encouraging sign of the importance being accorded by the international community to the CTBT. The Philippines welcomes its convening and is hopeful our discussions will yield significant and positive results.

Mr. President,

The CTBT is a potent instrument for disarmament that can stop the qualitative development of nuclear weapons. Its effectiveness lies in the universal adherence by States to the letter and intent of the Treaty. To date, 181 States have signed the CTBT, including the 149 States that have ratified it

The Philippines calls on those States which have not yet signed the CTBT to do so without any further delay. We urge those States that have signed but have not yet ratified the Treaty to take this critical step forward.

We await positive action from the remaining nine (9) Annex 2 States whose ratification will bring about the entry into force of the Treaty.

Although particular States have pledged voluntary testing moratoriums, these are not enough. These pledges must be enshrined into permanent and legally-binding commitments in order to send a clear message that the international

community does not condone the acquisition or development of nuclear weapons.

We reiterate the call for Nuclear Weapons States to take meaningful strides towards disarmament.

Mr. President,

This gathering serves as an important reminder that the world is at a pivotal crossroad in history that calls for a renewed sense of urgency and concrete action. The moment has come to aim for the early entry into force of the Treaty.

For the objectives of the CTBT to be fully realized, it is essential that all countries possessing nuclear weapons capability adhere to the Treaty. The Philippines calls upon these countries to lead the way in supporting the CTBT.

Substantive progress in bringing the CTBT closer to entry into force would also undoubtedly be a most welcome prelude to the forthcoming Review Conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in May 2010.

The Philippines senses a positive global climate and good faith of States Parties to the NPT. We hope these developments will enable us to achieve a good measure of progress in the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Mr. President,

Today is doubly significant as it marks the 13th anniversary of the day when the CTBT was opened for signature here in New York --- on 24 September 1996, to be exact.

As a manifestation of their strong political support and commitment to the Treaty, States Signatories have infused significant investments in the establishment of a verification system mandated by the Treaty in preparation for its entry into force.

The Philippines has contributed by hosting three (3) stations which are part of the International Monitoring System of this verification regime. In June 2007, the Philippines hosted a regional workshop to promote signature and ratification of the Treaty among countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Mr. President,

The groundwork is set. There is political momentum and a renewed spirit of openness and willingness that could bring us closer to our goal of achieving a safer world.

Creating a world free from the threat of destruction from nuclear weapons would be our enduring legacy to future generations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

