

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement of Egypt

delivered by

H.E. Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz

**Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations in
New York**

at the

Conference on Facilitating the Entry-into-Force of CTBT,

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, the delegation of Egypt would like to congratulate both France and Morocco for assuming the joint Presidency of the Fifth “Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT”. We also express our appreciation for Austria and Costa Rica for their Presidency of the last conference. It is also important in this context, to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his support to the promotion of the international nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament agenda, including CTBT.

This session of the Article IX Conference coincided with the convening of the Security Council’s Summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament and with a number of initiatives aiming at achieving real progress in strengthening the Nuclear Disarmament and Non Proliferation regime and restoring its credibility and efficiency both regionally and internationally.

The determination shown by leaders of nuclear-weapon-States to work towards a world free of Nuclear Weapons, the implementation of their countries’ obligations according to article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and taking serious steps towards achieving the universality of the Treaty are all well appreciated particularly as they are supplemented by the negotiations underway between the United States and the Russian Federation are on a strategic arms limitation agreement that should entail serious cuts in their nuclear arsenals. Moreover, the Conference on Disarmament has adopted for the first time in 12 years a program of work that may enable the revitalization of the role of the conference and the initiation of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. Indeed, there are also

strong signals of an emerging collective awareness of the importance of achieving a balanced and comprehensive success at the NPT 2010 Review conference in a manner that would solidify the alliance between nuclear and non-nuclear-weapon-States to significantly strengthen the NPT regime and pursue its universality. Egypt welcomes and supports all such developments.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt played a key role over the years in support of the NPT aiming at the balanced implementation by all sides of their commitments according to the Treaty, including their commitment to achieve its universality. In this context, Egypt played a visible role in the negotiation of the CTBT and was among the first states to sign the Treaty in 1996. Egypt's support for the Treaty has been associated with fact that, as stipulated in the CTBT preamble itself, CTBT is a complementary reinforcement to the NPT system, and was motivated by the adoption of the NPT 1995 review/extension package that included an essential resolution on the Middle East, sponsored by the three depositary States of the Treaty, in clear recognition that the nuclear situation in this region threatens its stability in an unprecedented manner.

Unfortunately, for the past 14 years no real efforts were made to implement the commitment in the resolution. Therefore, the 2010 Review Conference will be of paramount importance to move our agenda together, to implement the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, which will open the doors for a new horizon to the CTBT.

Thank you.