

Statement of Pakistan for the 20 years CTBT Ministerial Meeting

Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have gathered here today to mark the 20th Anniversary of the CTBT. At the same time, it is pertinent to reflect upon the reasons why the Treaty has not yet entered into force. While doing so, it is important to look back to history.

Pakistan had participated actively in the negotiations that led to the finalisation of the CTBT in the Conference on Disarmament. We not only endorsed the Treaty in the CD, but also voted in favour of the General Assembly resolution, which called for its adoption. We have been an accredited **Observer State** of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO). We have also taken positive note of the progress achieved so far.

Despite being a non-signatory state, we have been supporting the objectives and purposes of the Treaty by declaring and maintaining a voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing since 1998. In addition, we had declared that we would not be the first to resume nuclear testing in our region.

Following the first nuclear test in 1974 in our neighbourhood, Pakistan made several proposals for keeping South Asia free of nuclear weapons and missiles including a proposal for a regional CTBT. None of these proposals met a favourable response.

We have demonstrated our commitment to peace and stability in the region by proposing a Strategic Restraint Regime, which includes measures for nuclear and missile restraint. This proposal remains on the table.

Mr. Chair,

During the 2007 Article XIV Conference, we highlighted that ending discriminatory nuclear practices in South Asia would facilitate the objectives of the global non-proliferation regime, including the CTBT. Selective exemptions, in deviation from non-proliferation standards and norms, do not serve the objectives of non-proliferation and the universalization of the Treaty. A golden opportunity was wasted in 2008 to integrate CTBT as one of the non-proliferation benchmarks while granting a country specific exemption to the NSG Guidelines.

We are yet again witnessing propensity for selective exemptions on the part of some on the issue of new NSG membership instead of objective criteria to be applied across the board. It is highly unfortunate to see commercial and strategic considerations overshadowing global non-proliferation values.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, I would like to state that the creation of a stable and a balanced security environment in sensitive regions like South Asia necessitates progress towards a) resolving outstanding disputes b) balance in conventional forces c) and nuclear restraint. Moreover, criteria-based non-discriminatory approaches for mainstreaming and integrating the states, which are outside the global non-proliferation instruments must be followed in a manner that it also strengthens the global non-proliferation regime.

I thank you Mr. Chairman