



***STATEMENT DELIVERED BY***

***H.E MR. ABDULLAH GÜL  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY***

***THE THIRD ARTICLE XIV. CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING  
THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE  
NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY***

***3 SEPTEMBER 2003, VIENNA***

Mr. President,

Allow me first to congratulate you on your election to the Presidency of this important Conference and assure you of the full support of my delegation.

We have every confidence that under your able guidance, this Conference will come to a successful conclusion.

I would also like to express our appreciation to Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission and Secretary of the Conference for the excellent work he has been doing in pursuit of effective implementation of the Treaty when it enters into Force

Mr. President,

Turkey perceives international peace and security as an indivisible asset.

We believe, a credible and durable international regime of peace, security and stability can only be possible in the context of a comprehensive approach to global challenges.

It is important today, more than ever, that we stand firmly behind the non-proliferation regimes and reaffirm our commitment to the underlying principles of non-proliferation.

We are of the opinion that the same level of support needs to be given to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), to the Safeguards regimes of the IAEA and to facilitating the entry into force of the CTBT.

This would be the only way through which we could achieve a credible, reliable, verifiable and a comprehensive nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Mr. President,

The integrity of the global non-proliferation agenda was universally acknowledged at the Review and Extension Conference of the NPT in 1995 and the Conference called for the completion of the negotiations on a universal and internationally and effectively verifiable Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Despite prevailing skepticism and challenges, we, indeed, succeeded in meeting the deadline set by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT.

The negotiations for the CTBT were completed and the Treaty gathered 71 signatures on the day it was opened for signature in September 1996.

This encouraging start bolstered our expectations to achieve early entry into force and universality.

In this context, the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT underlined the importance and urgency of signatures and ratifications, without delay and without conditions, to achieve the early entry into force of the CTBT.

Turkey signed the CTBT on its inaugural day. Our signature was a concrete manifestation of our long standing firm support for nuclear arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation under a universal, verifiable and irreversible international regime.

Turkey is among the countries whose ratification is needed for entry into force of the Treaty. Cognizant of this special responsibility, Turkey submitted its instrument of ratification to the Secretary General of the United Nations on 16 February 2000.

Mr. President,

In the past 7 years, CTBT has covered remarkable ground. Today, enjoying 168 signatures and 104 ratifications, we believe that the path and the fate of the Treaty are firmly set towards achieving universal adherence.

In this context, an unprecedented global network of monitoring stations and laboratories, will verify the compliance with the principles of the Treaty.

However, in spite of our best efforts seven years after its inception, the Treaty unfortunately has not entered into force.

It is essential that while we maintain the momentum in establishing the verification systems, we should also spare no effort to accelerate the process of bringing this Treaty into force at the earliest date.

As a ratifier state in geographical proximity to certain regions of particular concern to global non-proliferation efforts, we renew our call upon all states to sign and ratify the CTBT without delay and without conditions.

In addition to that, pending entry into force, Mr. President, allow me to underline the importance of continuing the moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions.

Needless to say, a voluntary moratorium on nuclear weapons test explosions cannot provide a lasting substitute to a permanent, legally binding and internationally verifiable commitment offered by the CTBT.

Therefore, our ultimate goal should always remain to ensure the entry into force of the CTBT.

Mr. President,

We believe that the objective of the Article XIV Conference, among other things, is to inject fresh momentum to the process of achieving entry into force.

In this context, Turkey welcomes all those recent ratifications and signatures and recalling the Algerian ratification, renews its call on the remaining countries, whose ratification is needed for entry into force, to sign and ratify CTBT.

We hope that, by the end of this Conference and in its aftermath we will see an increasing number of signatures and ratifications.

We are confident that, the unified and strong voice of the declaration, which we hope will be adopted at the end of this important meeting, will revive the international interest and efforts in support of this Treaty and give fresh impetus to the process of its entry into force.

Finally, Mr. President, allow me to finish by thanking Austria as the host country, by commending Finland for their contribution to the preparations of this Conference and by reaffirming my country's strong and firm support to the goals and principles of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Thank you Mr. President.