

Statement of Serbia and Montenegro delivered by
Dr Branislav Milinković, Ambassador, at the Conference
on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive
Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, 4 September 2003

Mr. President,

It is my great honor to address the distinguished participants at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test - Ban Treaty on behalf of Serbia and Montenegro. I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to You Mr. President and to our Host Country. Our special appreciation goes to the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission Mr. Wolfgang Hoffmann for his efficient and dedicated work.

Mr. President,

The challenges to the international security are global, comprehensive and multi-faceted. There is no doubt that the presence of the great quantity of nuclear weapons put into question the security on global scale. Therefore, the forces oriented towards international peace and security must jointly respond to these challenges. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is a valuable instrument in these efforts, and is one of the key prerequisites of nuclear disarmament.

Serbia and Montenegro, as a country that does not have nuclear weapons, has recognized its place among the states that may contribute to the control of nuclear arms. As a country with an important geo-strategic position, Serbia and Montenegro sees its role in preventing the proliferation of weapons for mass destruction as well as nuclear weapons. As a result, we have signed CTBT in 2001, immediately after the democratic changes in the country.

Mr. President,

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro should forward soon the draft Law on ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear -Test - Ban Treaty to the Parliament of Serbia and Montenegro for its adoption. I want to stress that the procedure of the ratification of this Treaty was slightly slowed down because of the restructuring of the constitutional arrangement in my country. Our ratification of CTBT will reconfirm our determination to help in ensuring international peace and security.

I would like to express our high appreciation for Commission's work in establishing the global verification regime and to acknowledge useful role that it could play for civil and scientific purposes as well.

In conclusion, I would like to re-emphasize Serbia and Montenegro's full commitment to the entering into force of the CTBT and to its becoming universal in character, to the benefit of strengthening international peace and security through cooperation on disarmament. We are confident that this Conference will help in achieving this goal.

Thank You, Mr. President