



I T A L Y

Statement by

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at the

Conference on Facilitating the entry
into force of the Comprehensive
Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

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Mr. President,

let me start by congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the Fourth Conference on facilitating the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and by wishing the success of your endeavours in this delicate task.

I join the previous speakers in thanking the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the depository of the Treaty, for organizing and hosting this Conference, and Ambassador Tibor Toth for his vigorous statement. While congratulating the newly appointed Executive Secretary of the Provisional Technical Secretariat, I wish to thank also, on behalf of my Country, his predecessor, Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann, whose tremendous achievements have helped us to make substantive progress towards our common goal, the entry into force of CTB Treaty.

Mr. President,

turning to the works of this Conference, let me begin by stressing the wish already expressed by the United Kingdom — on behalf of the European Union — that the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty might soon enter into force.

We hope that this Conference will conclude with a strong unequivocal signal encouraging the Countries that have not yet ratified the Treaty to do so as quickly as possible.

Our tasks are clearly identified, and the presence today of so many Representatives of Governments, Specialised Agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations bears witness to the determination of the International Community to bring to effect such an achievement. We are here to consider the concrete steps which are to be undertaken to ensure that the force of the goodwill prevails in order to strengthen international security.

Mr. President,

in last year's Joint Ministerial Statement on the CTBT, the Ministers identified the CTB Treaty as "a major instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation". They strongly affirmed that its entry into force is more urgent today than ever before.

As we are approaching the tenth anniversary of the signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, we must not forget that it was the culmination of the International Community's determination, throughout more than fifty years, to

stop all new nuclear tests by introducing innovative mechanisms for assuring effective deterrence against possible violations.

Nevertheless, while the monitoring system is already being set up, the concrete implementation of the verification regime is contingent upon the formal entry into force of the Treaty, when all the signatory States will confirm the commitments contemplated by the Treaty.

Mr. President,

it is highly positive that many Countries voiced their support for extending the moratorium on nuclear testing. But, as new terrorist threats keep on challenging us on a global scale, the extension of moratorium is very far from being enough.

Time has come for incontrovertible and strong commitments. We must have the courage to stand up, and say, with clear voice, that nuclear tests are no longer necessary and then act accordingly. A revival of the arms race is what the world does not need, nor it is an outcome expected by anybody.

This is why Italy contributed wholeheartedly since the very beginning to draft the Treaty, to set up the Vienna structures and to help them to achieve their tasks, drawing on our experience in the field of seismic and radio nuclide monitoring, and in the application of the geophysical techniques foreseen by the Treaty during on-site inspections. In particular, our National Geophysical Institute has provided generous in-kind contributions in terms of expertise, personnel, and equipment.

This is why Italy, together with the other EU Countries, is actively promoting the signing and ratification of the Treaty.

Mr. President,

as a conclusion of my intervention, allow me to reiterate once again a concept in which we firmly believe: the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is not only a test case of the International Community's capacity to follow, without any delay, the road towards nuclear non-proliferation. It is also a cornerstone of the international fight for the elimination of all Weapons of Mass Destruction. For this reason the Final Declaration we will adopt at the end of this Conference will prove our political commitment towards the provision of a functioning Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Regime for the whole world, as an essential instrument to enhance international peace, mutual confidence and overall security.

This is why it is up to us to make this Conference a success.

Thank you, Mr. President.