



**STATEMENT
BY**

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**CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE
ENTRY INTO FORCE
OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY**

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Presidents,

Allow me, at the outset, to congratulate you on your election as President of this important Conference and to assure you of my delegation's full support and co-operation.

We also wish to express our appreciation to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) for preparing the necessary conference documents and for their professionalism and dedication in implementing the Commission's mandate and to the Office for Disarmament Affairs for their assistance and support in this regard.

South Africa also associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Presidents,

South Africa reaffirms that the key objective of this Conference is to promote the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, in accordance with Article XIV of the Treaty. Although it is necessary and desirable for continued efforts to universalise the Treaty, thereby reinforcing this norm against nuclear testing, our immediate focus is its entry into force.

The nuclear test as announced by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), on 9 October 2006 has illustrated that we cannot become complacent about achieving the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and indeed we should heed this wake-up call and intensify our efforts to achieve this goal.

South Africa therefore calls on all those Annex 2 States whose signature and ratification is required for the Treaty to enter into force, but who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Treaty without any further delay.

Presidents,

It is an opportune time to recall that the early entry into force of the CTBT is one of the practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and paragraphs 3 and 4(c) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament".

The CTBT is therefore a major instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and was also an integral part of the 1995 agreement that allowed the indefinite extension of the Treaty.

Recent pronouncements by some nuclear-weapon States, and indeed also our experience during the negotiations on the draft declaration to be adopted by this Conference, seem to suggest that the unspecific terms of Article VI of the NPT do not bind them to any specific timeframe to undertake their obligations under the Treaty.

Since South Africa became a State Party to the NPT we have consistently stated that any presumption of the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by the nuclear-weapon States remains incompatible with the provisions of the NPT, as well as with the broader goal of the maintenance of international peace and security. By casting doubt about the true meaning of Article VI and by completely ignoring the various agreements reached at previous Review Conferences, including the unequivocal

undertaking to nuclear disarmament made by all States Parties during the 2000 NPT Review Conference, such statements would only serve to inspire others to also renege on their obligations and undertakings and unravel what can only be described as a carefully balanced pact between the haves and have-nots.

Presidents,

The CTBT is not an instrument standing on its own, but forms part of a Treaty Regime that encompasses an interlinking network of obligations, commitments and undertakings that are focused on preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, providing for nuclear disarmament, and allowing the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The non-entry into force of the Treaty will weaken the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and undermine the international community's quest to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

The entry into force of the CTBT is a pressing goal and a non-negotiable commitment of all States Signatories on the international community's joint path towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

South Africa will continue to work relentlessly with all concerned to achieve the entry into force of this important pillar of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

I thank you.