



**STATE of ISRAEL**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

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**At the**

**Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the  
Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty**

**Vienna, 17-18 September 2007**

Mr. President,

Let me join previous speakers in congratulating you, on behalf of the delegation of Israel, on your election as President of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. I am confident that the efforts you have invested in the preparation of this conference and your leadership will lead us to a successful conclusion. I can assure you of Israel's full support and cooperation.

Our deep appreciation goes to Ambassadors Steltzer from Austria and Ambassador Anna Dengo from Costa Rica for their relentless efforts in preparing this conference. We hope these efforts have laid the ground for its success. Thanks go as well to the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and his staff for their excellent work in building the CTBTO and especially the Treaty's verification regime.

Mr. President,

At the outset I would like to reiterate my Government's unequivocal support for the CTBT. This support has been continuing since Israel signed the Treaty in 1996. It is our hope that this Conference will succeed in advancing the objective of entry into force of the Treaty and in outlining clearly the way ahead, marking the important intermediate goals and the required steps to achieve them.

Israel considers the prohibition of nuclear testing as pivotal to global nuclear non-proliferation regimes. It is part and parcel of our overall national policy on nuclear security and stability. The critical norm that the Treaty embodies is highlighted by recent challenges to non proliferation regimes and by repeated instances of non compliance and violations of Treaty obligations by certain Middle East states. The CTBT constitutes a significant tool for addressing these growing challenges.

Mr president,

We are well aware that the CTBT is coping currently with financial difficulties. If the international community desires to make healthy progress towards Entry Into Force of the Treaty, the organization must be fully ready to its task. This requires that all states must contribute financially, in a timely manner, to the CTBTO.

Mr. President,

Israel for its part has been consistently supporting the CTBT since its inception.

--Israel has lent its active support to the establishment of the verification regime of the Treaty, recognizing it to be one of the main requirements for the Treaty's Entry into Force (Article IV paragraph 1).

--Israel has already completed the construction of the two auxiliary seismic stations in Meron and Eilat and has had them successfully certified by the PTS. Moreover, since

the establishment of these stations, Israel has been continuously transmitting the data to the IDC. We call on all parties, especially those in our region, that have been more guarded in their approach, to do the same, and provide the organization with the data as well, as we firmly believe in the need to continuously test the IMS system until Entry Into Force.

--In addition Israel is continuing to take part in most of the verification related activities, especially those of the OSI such as training, tabletops, field exercises and workshops and contributed significantly to the drafting and later on to the elaboration of the OSI Operational Manual including the OSI Test Manual(TM) for the Integrated Field Experiment (IFE) of 2008 in Kazakhstan. We have further contributed to support in full the CTBTO's operations financially, despite the austere national budgets and the the financial constraints we have been operating under.

Mr. President,

The CTBT is merely one of the many obligations that Israel had undertaken to promote peace and security. I wish to reiterate that as stated in the past, Israel adopted comprehensive export control legislation and adoption of the control lists of the NSG and the Australia Group. Other measures included supporting the amended Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and welcoming the Security Council Resolution 1540 aimed at preventing Weapons of Mass Destruction proliferation. Israel also supported the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the Code on the Safety of Research Reactors. Recently Israel has also joined the Global Initiative to combat Nuclear terrorism (GICNT), an initiative that is now thankfully shared by many nations.

Mr. President

Much as we can derive satisfaction from the progress made by the CTBTO in recent years, we still have to recognize that the Treaty's EIF is still not in sight. Such lamentable reality requires putting a great emphasis on a series of interim measures designed both to serve the broader cause of security and stability even in the current setup, while also working on those issues that would assure smooth and rapid EIF when the moment comes.

Mr President

It is our duty to reiterate today the importance of interim measures to be carried out by all parties pending Entry Into Force. Towards that end Israel calls upon all states to proceed along the following steps:

--Sustain the commitment not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion and any other nuclear explosion in line with the Treaty's basic obligations.

-- Redouble the efforts to complete the CTBT verification regime and in this context complete the preparation of the OSI Operational Manual, purchase and test the OSI equipment and prepare the training infrastructure for OSI inspectors. It is also necessary to test and validate the whole OSI system by field exercises.

--Operate, maintain and test the completed IMS stations and the IDC in order to gain experience and to provide early detection capabilities (designed to promote the

prohibition norm and verify compliance with it). Where coverage gaps of IMS stations exist, take temporary measures to strengthen the system prior to EIF. Such measures may include temporary operation of auxiliary seismic stations as primary ones to fill gaps in IMS coverage until all primary stations are in place and transferring data.

—Provide sufficient funds to the CTBTO in order to enable the completion of the build up of its verification regime and its testing.

As for the longer term, Israel's ratification of the CTBT will be influenced by the same three considerations we have laid down on previous occasions. Briefly stated, these include

—The readiness of the verification regime of the Treaty, especially that of the OSI and its immunity to abuse;

—Israel's sovereign equality status in the Policy Making Organs of the Treaty, including those related to the geographical region of the Middle East and South Asia (MESA) and in the Executive Council of the future CTBTO and,

—The adherence to and compliance with the CTBT by states in the Middle East.

Mr President,

In the context of the above considerations I wish to emphasize that one regional group, namely MESA, is still not functioning. All efforts to date to operate MESA have proven elusive. These efforts have been consistently blocked by one state for reasons completely alien to the purposes of the Treaty. This reality sends a consistently bleak signal to Israel regarding the functioning of MESA in the context of the Treaty. Understandably, it also impacts on our national policy regarding the ratification of the Treaty. Things were aggravated by efforts of the same state to politicize the work of the Preparatory Commission and thus jeopardize the prospects for early Entry Into Force of the Treaty. We do hope that those interested in EIF of the Treaty will endeavor to rectify this regrettable situation so that the work of the Commission is not politicized and the MESA geographical region functions like all other geographical regions, within the various bodies of the Preparatory Commission.

Mr. President;

Since the last conference in 2005 more progress has been made in building the CTBTO. Credit should go to all those who contributed to it. The current reality requires all the more emphasis to be placed on the above mentioned interim measures as well as on supporting financially the CTBTO. In addition, preventing the politicization of its Policy Making Organs, in order to make the eventual Entry Into Force of the Treaty closer, is urgently called for.

Thank you, Mr. President.