

Постоянное
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Российской Федерации
при Организации
Объединённых Наций



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**STATEMENT
BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SERGEY RYABKOV**

**AT THE 6TH CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO
FORCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY**

New York, September 24, 2009

Distinguished Mr. Chairman,

Let me congratulate you and the representative of (France/Morocco) with the appointment as Co-Chairs of our Forum and express my confidence in the successful outcome of the 6th Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) under your able leadership.

Definitely, the earliest entry into force of the CTBT is our priority. Russia ratified the CTBT as early as in 2000 and as a matter of principle strongly supports this instrument and works actively towards this goal. The CTBT is called on to become an essential element of the international legal system of security as an important link for other non-proliferation and disarmament instruments.

President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev emphasized the need for the earliest entry into force of the CTBT at the Security Council Summit meeting on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. A provision in support of the CTBT has been included in the UN Security Council resolution adopted today.

At present, 181 States have signed and 149 of them have already ratified the CTBT. We look with optimism at positive developments in connection with the CTBT. We welcome the intent of the US administration to ratify the CTBT, as it was stated in London on April 1, 2009 in the Joint Statement of President Dmitry Medvedev of the Russian Federation and President Barack Obama of the United States of America.

However, thirteen years since the opening of the CTBT for signature this Treaty has not yet entered into force. The prospects of entry into force of this important international legal instrument remain blurred and this gives all reasons for concern. The future of this Treaty in many respects will be an indicator of the readiness of the international community to move towards a noble goal of creating a world free of nuclear weapons. Therefore, we believe that the remaining 9 States of the so-called "List of 44", whose signing and/or ratifying the Treaty is essential for its entry into force, bear special responsibility for the future of the CTBT. We call upon those States to act accordingly without delay and without preconditions.

Mr.Chairman,

In the present situation the States who support the CTBT must continue their efforts to promote the treaty.

Russia continues to advocate the CTBT in the United Nations, and to repeatedly stress the role and significance of the CTBT in the course of preparatory work for the 2010 NPT Review Conference and in other relevant multilateral fora. In April 2009 we supported the non-proliferation resolution of the Interparliamentary Union with a special emphasis on the CTBT.

Russia along with other participants in the 2009 G8 Aquila Summit initiated the inclusion of a section on the support by the G8 of the CTBT's early entry into force and its universalization to the statement on non-proliferation. We actively advocate the CTBT through our bilateral contacts.

We would like to draw your attention to the need for all States to adhere to the letter and spirit of the treaty before its entry into force. It is essential that within this period the nuclear test moratorium is observed. Russia intends to further comply with this commitment if other nuclear weapon States do likewise. We believe and we would like to stress it once again that voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing, no matter how important, cannot substitute the primary goal – the earliest entry into force of the CTBT in strict accordance with the provisions of its Article XIV. After all, unilateral political commitments of some States cannot be compared with the international legal obligations under the CTBT.

Mr.Chairman,

Russia supports the efforts of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission to establish a Treaty verification mechanism and actively participates in this work. The progress is obvious – more than two thirds of the International monitoring system (IMS) facilities have been certified. Most of these facilities are fully operational. A large-scale on-site inspection Integrated field exercise, conducted in August-September 2008 in Kazakhstan was a landmark event. The existing high level of alert of the CTBT verification mechanism has been confirmed by

timely recording of the notorious event in the DPRK on May 25, 2009 using technical means of verification mechanism and timely notification of the States Parties. This is another point in case that the Treaty is verifiable, which cannot but compel the States who have not yet ratified the CTBT under the pretext of its unverifiability to reconsider their position.

The Russian Federation closely cooperates with the CTBTO Preparatory Commission in establishing the IMS facilities on its territory. We are satisfied with the level and quality of the existing cooperation between us and the Commission in the deployment of the Russian IMS segment. Half of its stations have already been certified and are functioning.

Mr.Chairman,

We would like to state that the Russian delegation supports the draft Final declaration of the Conference and draft Measures to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty contained there. We are ready to participate actively in its implementation. We hope that of our joint efforts will lead to a qualitative shift towards the transformation of the CTBT into a functioning international legal instrument.

In conclusion, we once again call upon all States that have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT, and first of all those on whom its entry into force depend, to do so without delay or any preconditions.

Thank you, Mr.Chairman.