



BRAZIL

**STATEMENT BY H. E. VERA MACHADO,
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RELATIONS,
AT THE SEVENTH CONFERENCE ON
FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CTBT**

New York, 23 September 2011

(check against delivery)

On behalf of Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota, I am honoured to address this Conference and reiterate Brazil's long-standing and unwavering support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

More than four decades ago, Brazil was among the first countries to endorse the calls for a total ban on nuclear testing. It actively participated in the Geneva negotiations, signed the CTBT on 24 September 1996, the same day it was opened for signature, and was among the first States to ratify it, on 24 July 1998.

The CTBT is a key element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. As recognized in its Preamble, once in force, it is meant to constrain the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and put an end to the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons. We all hope that such aspiration is effectively met, thereby giving the Treaty a meaningful role in our collective efforts to cease the nuclear arms race and achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The entry into force of the CTBT is among the "13 Steps" for nuclear disarmament, adopted by consensus in the 2000 NPT Review Conference. Ten years later, the 2010 NPT Review Conference renewed such goal and agreed that the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization should fully develop the verification regime, including the early completion and provisional operationalization of the International Monitoring System (IMS).

Upon entry into force of the Treaty, the IMS must serve as an effective, reliable and non-discriminatory verification system with global reach, in order to provide credible assurance of compliance with the CTBT.

We are glad that the IMS has already 276 stations installed, almost 90% of the verification network foreseen in the Treaty. Its stations have already proved their effectiveness by detecting the nuclear tests occurred in 2006 and 2009. The data collected in the aftermath of the nuclear incident of March 11th in Japan have also demonstrated the effectiveness of such system. Brazil fully supports the completion of the IMS and the outstanding work by the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, in fulfillment of its mandate.

Notwithstanding the positive prospects with regard to the effectiveness of the CTBT verification system, it is a source of frustration and concern to witness that, fifteen years after having been opened for signature, the treaty has not yet entered into force.

This situation must be urgently addressed. Brazil therefore calls upon all States who have not yet signed or ratified the treaty, in particular the Annex II States, to do so as soon as possible, and to join the efforts aimed at bringing the Treaty into force.

Not only the nuclear disarmament cause is undermined by protracted action on CTBT ratification. Nuclear proliferation will continue to be a global risk if countries reserve the right to continue nuclear testing. Therefore it is urgent that Governments and the civil society join efforts to raise awareness on the risks posed by postponing commitment to ratify the CTBT.

Thank you.