

Statement by Costa Rica during VII Conference on Article XIV of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

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(Check against delivery)

Costa Rica warmly welcomes the designation of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Patricia Espinosa and of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Carl Bildt, as Co-chairs of this Conference.

We also recognize the excellent work carried out by Morocco and France as previous Co-Chairs and in particular the commitment of those States who, with their actions, have contributed to the goal of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament becoming a reality and not simply an aspiration. We congratulate Guinea for joining this effort as well.

Costa Rica believes that, in addition to requesting that those countries, which have not yet signed or ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, should adhere to this international commitment, we must advance in the search for two specific goals:

The first of these is to promote, without further delay, a change of paradigm. The time has come to reformulate the debate on nuclear weapons, in order to move it from a paradigm centered on doctrines of security, towards a humanist approach that holds human beings and international humanitarian law as the principal guiding criteria.

A new paradigm will bring a new momentum to the Disarmament Conference and will open new avenues for a consensus, in turn bringing about the negotiation of a treaty, which will prohibit the production of fissile material destined towards the production of nuclear weapons. It will also facilitate the universalization of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and of the CTBT.

In order to move forward in this process, Costa Rica respectfully requests your support for the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention (document A/62/650); initiative which we presented together with Malaysia at the Preparatory Committee of the NPT Review Conference in May 2010, and which counts on all the necessary support from civil society. The Model Convention prohibits the use, threat of use, possession, development, testing, deployment and transfer of nuclear weapons, and provides a step-by-step program for the elimination of these weapons under an effective international control. These are broad purposes, yet achievable if there exists political will, especially when the Model Convention conveys the interests and priorities of the leaders of civil society whose voices have not been heard well enough.

From a standpoint based on human security, we will be able to finally relaunch the negotiations of the Disarmament Conference and move forward towards a preparatory process, in order to achieve a universal and legally binding Convention that prohibit nuclear weapons.

The second objective is to make an earnest and insistent call to nuclear weapons States to respect the true spirit of the CTBT. For Costa Rica, it is unjustifiable and unacceptable that, by not being explicit in the CTBT, States that possess nuclear weapons, some of which have signed and ratified the Treaty, allocate billions of dollars, year after year, towards the development and modernization of nuclear weapons, against the ultimate goal of this Treaty and at the expense of the promotion of the wellbeing of its citizens. Costa Rica respectfully invites those States to stop investing in the modernization and life extension of its arsenals and to detain their nuclear weapons tests, including subcritical tests. Costa Rica invites all countries to invest in the resources of their citizens.

Mr. Chairmen

Despite having been declared by the International Court of Justice as incompatible with international law, and in particular with international humanitarian law, the nuclear risk continues to indiscriminately threaten us.

Therefore, my country, taking advantage of the power of multilateralism, has not ceased to work on the nuclear disarmament of those countries that possess these types of weapons, since they have clearly demonstrated that they have no intentions of getting rid of them. The nations most interested in establishing the proscriptions are, and will continue being, those that do not possess any and that can at any given moment become victims of their indiscriminate effects.

Taking into account victims of nuclear testing, Costa Rica remembers that on the occasion of the first International Day against Nuclear Tests, on August 29th, 2009, the distinguished Government of Kazakhstan proposed the creation of an international fund, which will be managed by the United Nations in order to support survivors of nuclear testing.

Costa Rica urges the Secretary General to, under the auspices of the United Nations, mobilize more resources in order to tend to the contamination, health and rehabilitation of people and sites in which nuclear tests have been carried out throughout the world.

Finally, Costa Rica highlights the leadership of the Secretary General in the progress achieved during his mandate in the area of nuclear disarmament, as well as the work of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Co-Chairs: Costa Rica's position on this issue is, and has been, very clear. Costa Rica will continue to work intensively on the task of promoting non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament and more broadly speaking, in general and complete disarmament.

Thank you ... Tack så mycket