



**REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

S T A T E M E N T

by

**Mr Samuel ŽBOGAR
State Secretary at the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

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

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Mr President,

Please allow me at the outset, on behalf of the Republic of Slovenia, to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this important meeting and assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation in the fulfilment of the responsibility entrusted to you.

Slovenia fully concurs with the statement made by the Presidency of the European Union. In addition please allow me to make some remarks in my national capacity.

Mr President,

Slovenia considers the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction as one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It is a threat to stability at the global as well as regional level. In the post-Cold War period as well as in the post September 11 era, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and technologies for their delivery as well as arms control have become one of the crucial pillars of international security. Therefore, our response to the new threats, which do not exclude any region or state, has to be universal and persistent.

Slovenia considers the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as two most important pillars in the process of strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the basis for the entire set of disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

The CTBT has a universal character and a regional impact as well. The universal character of the Treaty provides security for all and should not leave place for excuses based on national security needs and regional political security. Slovenia recognizes this treaty as the most important agreement in the field of disarmament. It has a wide international support expressed by the UN General Assembly and by other universal and regional multilateral mechanisms. Like in the case of any multilateral agreements, we should keep in mind that the entry into force of the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty is in the common interest of the international

community as a whole. We see the adoption of the final declaration by this conference as an important political step in support of the CTBT agreement.

We should not neglect the progress made over the last seven years, since the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was adopted. The Preparatory Commission to the CTBTO has been established that presents the core of the future CTBT organization. The Republic of Slovenia strives for a further build-up of the verification regime, which would be capable of fulfilling the requirements of the treaty. Slovenia welcomes all the efforts made by the Secretary and the Secretariat to speed up the ratification procedures of the CTBT. International co-operation as well as the establishment and the role of national agencies, such as the Nuclear Safety Administration in the case of Slovenia, are also important resources to promote further ratifications and effective implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty.

The Republic of Slovenia calls on the remaining CTBT hold-out states to take prompt action towards ratification. We furthermore believe that assistance should be offered to these states regarding the ratification and implementation of the CTBT. We fully support all the efforts of the EU. We also urge those states with active nuclear weapons research programmes and test sites to take actions that would reinforce the CTBT and support its goals, such as maintaining their existing test moratoria pending the entry into force of the CTBT, refraining from activities at test sites that might be construed as CTBT violations, halting research, development and production of new nuclear warheads or modifying the existing bomb designs to give them new military capabilities.

Slovenia firmly supports a positive approach to international security based on confidence and transparency, and was therefore among the first countries to sign the CTBT in 1996, which it ratified in 1999. As a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and Zangger Committee, Slovenia has confirmed its policy of nuclear non-proliferation, including the policy of the non-proliferation of chemical and biological weapons. Slovenia is also aiming to become a member of the Australian group, the MTCR and the Wassenaar Arrangement. It is our common obligation to continue the

process of arms control and non-proliferation, which has resulted in numerous important treaties and arrangements.

Mr President,

Slovenia is convinced that the CTBT is of great importance also in combating most recent threats to international, regional and national security, i.e. terrorism. The fight against terrorism, non-proliferation and control regimes should be the fundamental endeavours of each and every state in ensuring its own safety as well as the safety of the international community.