



DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

STATEMENT

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AT THE

**CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE
OF THE**

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Vienna, 3 September 2003

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Delegation of Ukraine let me express the warmest congratulations on your election to the Presidency of the third Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We pledge our support and full cooperation in the pursuit of a productive and successful outcome of this forum.

Mr. President

Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are vitally important areas of our common efforts to strengthen international peace and security. Ukraine, whose role in the nuclear disarmament can serve as an example, remains to be one of the strongest and consistent supporters of the standing international instruments in this field.

At the same time we recognize that the way to achieve nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation goals is not an easy one. Building up strategic stability in the world we cannot ignore economic, social, humanitarian and environmental factors.

Non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament issues remain among the imperative priorities for the humankind. Strengthening the NPT and CTBT treaties and making them universal is an essential part of the efforts to enhance international peace and security throughout the world.

We are convinced that the role of nuclear weapons should be diminished in national security doctrines. Moreover, further upgrading of the nuclear weapons including the miniaturization of the nuclear warheads will lead not only to their vertical proliferation but will increase risk of their falling into the hands of the terrorists organizations.

Ukraine welcomes the overwhelming support for the CTBT that has been expressed by a number of regional organizations and their relevant initiatives. Reiterating the importance of implementation of the "thirteen practical steps" contained in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, Ukraine stands for the further strengthening of the CTBT and urges all States, first and foremost the nuclear weapon states, to ratify the Treaty without delay and unconditionally.

Pending its operation, the moratorium on nuclear tests or any other nuclear explosions should be maintained. We call upon nuclear weapon states to further demonstrate their firm determination to observe their obligations in this respect.

Mr. President

The important step to strengthen the international security and non-proliferation could be immediate commencement of negotiations for a non-discriminatory, multilateral and effective verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and establishment within the Conference of disarmament of an appropriate subsidiary body mandated to deal with nuclear disarmament.

While it has yet to enter into force, the CTBT has already made a powerful contribution to non-proliferation and disarmament. With 168 signatures and 104 ratifications, the Treaty is a clear expression of the international community's will to put an end to a period, during which more than 2,000 nuclear test explosions were carried out worldwide. Ukraine welcomes States that ratified the CTBT since the 2001 Conference.

Ukraine supports active efforts of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organization and of its Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS), in particular those aimed at building up the comprehensive global verification system. The PTS has grown into a strong and confident international body. In the course of these years the Secretariat has achieved important progress in the establishment of the global network of 321 monitoring stations and 16 radionuclide laboratories located in some 90 countries. We note with satisfaction that some 87 stations, including Ukrainian one, and National Data Centers are now connected through a satellite communications network, to the International Data Center in Vienna. That is the practical result of the praiseworthy work that has been done.

At the same time we stress the importance of adherence by the States Parties to their financial obligations with regard to the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO, which is extremely important at the stage of developing and expanding the verification system envisaged by the Treaty.

Mr. President

Ukraine supports the draft Final Declaration and Measures to promote the entry into force of the CTBT and reaffirms its determination to further contribute to the efforts, aimed to achieve the goals stipulated by the Treaty.

Thank you.