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**VIETNAM**

**Statement**

**by**

**Ambassador Tran Van Tung**

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

(Vienna, Austria, 3-5/9/2003)

*Mr. President,*

At the outset, I wish to express my congratulations on your election as president of this important conference. I am confident that under your wise guidance, significant results could be achieved out of the conference.

*Mr. President,*

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) plays a critical role in preventing the development of nuclear weapons, thus contributing to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation which helps enhance international peace and security. This highlights the international community's effort in bringing about a permanent ban on all types of nuclear test explosions.

We are pleased to note that there has been a steady increase in the number of signatory and ratifying states, that no nuclear explosion has been carried out by the Nuclear Weapon States since the Treaty was opened for signature. Since this is the third Article XIV conference, we hope that the conference will find measures to create a favorable environment and conditions for an early entry into force of the Treaty. In this connection, we share and support the views of Non-Aligned Movement which are well expressed in the Malaysia delegation's statement. At first, the CTBT has to go hand-in-hand with further enhanced efforts in nuclear disarmament, preventing both vertical and horizontal development of nuclear weapons, as well as prohibiting all types of development of nuclear weapons. In this field, nuclear weapons countries hold special responsibilities. Accordingly, on the one hand, we welcome the observation of the nuclear test moratorium by all nuclear weapons countries, on the other hand, it is our conviction that these

countries need to fully implement their commitments, especially the commitment under Article VI of the NPT and the ratification of the CTBT.

*Mr. President,*

Vietnam commends the efforts by the PrepCom for the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in promoting the universal adherence of the Treaty, and establishment of an effective verification regime in monitoring the implementation of the Treaty when it enters into force.

*Mr. President,*

Vietnam reaffirms its consistent position of supporting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, towards a world free of nuclear weapons. Vietnam firmly supports the principle of banning comprehensively and completely nuclear test explosions, and other types of tests to develop and upgrade nuclear arsenal. Proceeding from that principle, Vietnam was one of the first countries to sign the Treaty when it was opened for signature in New York on 26th September, 1996. Vietnam has currently established an inter-agency taskforce responsible for the CTBT and its relevant agencies are actively studying the provisions of the Treaty, particularly the provisions on technicals and inspections procedures. Vietnam is accelerating preparatory steps, including legislation, mechanism, personnel for an early ratification of the Treaty.

*Mr. President,*

This conference provides us with an opportunity to make further progress for an early entry into force of the Treaty, contributing to international peace and security. Vietnam stands ready to work together with all countries for the success of the conference.

Thank you for the attention./.