

S. Erdene

Statement by Mr. D. Moonontsagaan, Representative of the Government of Mongolia to the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

/Vienna, September 3-5/

Mr. President,

At the outset I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your election as President of this third Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. President,

Decades of relentless campaigning and intensive efforts aimed at the adoption of a treaty banning all nuclear explosions had their apotheosis in the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 10 September 1996 by the United Nations General Assembly in New York. It was a dramatic breakthrough for the advocates of nuclear disarmament, who had long seen such a treaty as a litmus test of the political will to disarm.

The CTBT comprehensively prohibited all nuclear explosions in all environments, regardless of their nature and objectives, and provided for a verification and monitoring regime unprecedented in its global reach. It seemed then as a dawn of a completely new page in the global quest for building a safer world and sparing our future generations from the danger of a nuclear apocalypse.

Security concerns of today, especially those that are connected to the threat of horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the dangers posed by their possible acquisition by non-state actors, require taking of resolute steps towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The CTBT, according to its own text, is a "meaningful step in the realization of a systematic process to achieve nuclear disarmament" as the cessation of all nuclear test explosions "constitutes an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects" by constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons.

Today, with its 168 States Signatories, 104 ratifications, with the organization established in Vienna to implement it and the on-going establishment of a credible verification system, the Treaty can claim to be a huge success. Yet, the seventh year after its adoption, the Treaty, regretfully, still lacks the very essence, in terms that it has not entered into force. Indeed, though the self-imposed moratoria on nuclear testing are of tremendous significance, such unilateral measures cannot and must not be considered as a substitute to a legally binding and fully verifiable commitment made through the signing and ratification of the CTBT.

As a country that strongly favors the objective of complete nuclear disarmament and having a well established nuclear-weapon-free-status, Mongolia finds this situation

totally unacceptable. We pride ourselves for being among the very first countries to have signed and ratified the Treaty. Mongolia regards the CTBT as a major instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, which once in force would be instrumental in reducing and eventually eliminating all nuclear weapons. It considers, therefore, that securing its entry into force and its universality must be the highest priority for the international community.

Mr. President,

This Conference provides a welcome opportunity to reaffirm our common commitment to the Treaty's obligations and undertakings. It should also facilitate the speedy entry into force of the CTBT through adoption of a strong final declaration sending a clear message to all States.

We appeal to all the States that have not done so, to sign and/or ratify the CTBT at the earliest possible date. This applies especially to the countries listed in the Annex II to the Treaty, whose ratification is required for the Treaty's entry into force. Mongolia warmly welcomes Algeria's deposit of its instrument of ratification of the CTBT with the United Nations on July 11. It brought the number of ratifications of the Annex II states to 32. We see it as a positive sign. It shows that the actions taken by the international community, and particularly by our two previous conferences, have been taken into account and bear their fruit, though not at the pace that we wish. Mongolia calls upon the remaining 12 Annex II countries to follow suit and adhere to the CTBT as early as possible..

Mr. President,

The credibility of the CTBT and other international instruments prohibiting weapons of mass destruction depend to a great extent on the effectiveness of their verification regime. The CTBT is unprecedented in this regard, having more than 300 stations in the remotest places on Earth.

We welcome the efforts aimed at ensuring the reliable operation of the existing control and monitoring systems under the CTBT and highly commend the Provisional Technical Secretariat and especially Mr. Wolfgang Hoffmann, its Executive Secretary, for the outstanding job they are doing in setting up the International Monitoring System. It is my pleasure to note that my country is hosting 3 stations in the International Monitoring System Network – seismological, radio nuclide and infrasound. Two of these stations have already been certified by the CTBTO as meeting all the necessary technical requirements, with the remaining one to be certified in the nearest future. It is, in my view, a clear manifestation of Mongolia's commitment to the CTBT and represents our tangible contribution to that end.

Thank you.