

Check against delivery

**Statement by  
H.E. Dr. Toufiq Ali  
Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Bangladesh  
at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the  
Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty  
Vienna, 3 September 2003**

**Mr. President,**

Please accept my delegation's warm felicitations on your election as the President of the Conference. I am confident that, with your wisdom and able stewardship, our meeting will provide renewed impetus to the CTBT and its early entry into force. I would also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau.

May I also take this opportunity to commend the work undertaken by you, Ambassador Tom Groberg, particularly on the draft Declaration of the Conference. I also thank Mr. Wolfgang Hoffmann for his leadership to the Secretariat of the CTBTO, and for his efforts at making the Treaty effective.

**Mr. President,**

As a State Party to the CTBTO, Bangladesh fully supports this Conference, and attaches great importance to international efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation and total elimination of weapons of mass destruction. Bangladesh has been unequivocal in her support to international efforts towards disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament. The CTBT is a key instrument in halting both vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is an effective first step in nuclear non-proliferation and a cornerstone in the effort for global nuclear disarmament.

Article 25 of the Constitution of Bangladesh requires the State to "strive for the renunciation of the use of force in international relations and for general and complete disarmament". Bangladesh signed the Treaty in 1996 and ratified it in 2000. We made a conscious decision to become a party to almost all major international instruments pertaining to disarmament. We were the first country in South Asia to sign the CTBT, having consciously given up the nuclear option. The nuclear capability of our two neighbours is a matter of concern. We are encouraged by their decision to impose self-moratorium on further nuclear testing. However, such unilateral restrictive measures cannot a substitute for an

international regime. We call upon all countries that have not done so, to sign and ratify the Treaty at the earliest.

Mr. President,

Although seven years have passed since the CTBT was opened for signature, the regime still remains elusive. 13 of the 44 countries in the Annex II of the Treaty, whose ratification is required for the Treaty to enter into force have not done so. Three of them have not even signed the Treaty. This remains matter of concern for us. Without an effective verification regime envisaged under the CTBT, a world free of nuclear weapons will remain a distant dream. We have gathered here to express our total commitment to this principle, and appeal to all whose ratification is essential for the entering into force of the CTBT to make a renewed commitment towards the goal of universalization of the Treaty and urge them to become party CTBT without delay and without conditions. It is heartening that some countries nuclear states have declared moratorium on nuclear testing. Till such time that the Treaty comes into force, it is essential that the international moratorium on nuclear testing be maintained.

We believe that the resolve of the international community is even greater today to free the world from nuclear weapons. The measures to promote early entry into force, as contained in the draft declaration, should be actively pursued by all member states. We also encourage bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives to attain this objective.

The CTBT provides for a global verification regime through International Monitoring System. We support the development of the system, which would be capable of detecting nuclear testing around the globe. The Provisional Technical Secretariat of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission deserves our commendation for its effort in this regard. When completed, the verification regime will represent most comprehensive work for attaining the objective of the Treaty.

It is our sincere hope that every effort would be made for early entry into force of the CTBT. We call upon all states to abide by the obligations of the Treaty even though it has yet to enter into force. At the same time, we renew our appeal to those who have not signed and ratified the treaty to do so without any conditions and delay. On our part, we support your goals of achieving the objectives of the Conference and continue to work for its early entry into force.

I thank you.