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BANGLADESH

STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BANGLADESH
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT

**THE CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF
THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY**

**TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER
UNITED NATIONS**

**NEW YORK
23 SEPTEMBER 2005**

Mr. President,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your well-deserved election as President of the Conference. I am confident that your unrivalled wisdom and dynamic leadership will bring our deliberations to fruition. My delegation will extend all cooperation to facilitate your work.

Mr. President,

We are meeting here at the backdrop of two important events: the 2005 NPT Review Conference and the 2005 World Summit.

It is disappointing that the 2005 NPT Review Conference could not agree on a common path for following-up and further the already agreed steps towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

It is even more frustrating that the 2005 World Summit, where our leaders met to review status of implementation of the commitments they made earlier including in the Millennium Declaration, failed even to include a chapter on disarmament and non-proliferation in the outcome document. Goodwill of the grand majority was stampeded by the inflexible attitude of a few.

We believe that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation leading to a general and complete disarmament is essential for maintaining international peace and security. The year 2005 witnessed our successive failures in this very vital front. The political difference amongst us is leading to a possibly dangerous deadlock. We need to act now and act decisively to reverse this sad commentary. We must resume the multilateral negotiations on disarmament and non-proliferation without any further delay.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh, a country with impeccable disarmament and non-proliferation record, is committed to pursue a universal adherence to the CTBT and the NPT. She has consciously and unconditionally opted to remain non-nuclear. Our unequivocal commitment to the full implementation of the CTBT as well as the NPT in all their aspects emanates from our constitutional obligations to a general and complete disarmament. Bangladesh is the first Annex 2 nation in South Asia to have signed the CTBT. We consider that nuclear testing of any kind undermines nuclear non-proliferation, both horizontal and vertical, and constitutes a major threat to international peace and security.

The CTBT, which bans nuclear explosions in any environment, is the culmination of over forty years of work. It is now almost ten years since we adopted the Treaty. We regret very much that the Treaty is yet to enter into force. We call upon the remaining 11 Annex 2 States, whose ratification is necessary for the CTBT to enter into force, to adhere to the Treaty the soonest possible.

Bangladesh appreciates the work of the International Monitoring System (IMS) for verification of the Treaty compliance. We would welcome initiatives to extend the services of the IMS to civilian usage including tsunami or other natural disaster warning.

Mr. President,

We, like many others, realise that proliferation of nuclear weapons and their acquisition by State as well as non-State actors are real possibilities. We must not let that happen. I think there is no disagreement on that. The question is how to achieve that goal? Bangladesh continues to believe that the best guarantee against nuclear weapons proliferation lies in their total elimination. Until that happens, we must stop providing more precision capability to the existing nuclear weapons and developing new types of nuclear weapons.

Entry into force of the CTBT would be the first essential step in achieving our desired goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Banning of nuclear explosions will not only prevent us from further developing nuclear weapons technology, but would also save us from the catastrophic environmental and health hazards of nuclear explosion.

It is in this perspective that Bangladesh calls for universal adherence to the CTBT, particularly by the nuclear-weapon-States. We commend, however, these nuclear-weapon-States for observing the moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions since the CTBT's opening for signature. They should maintain the moratorium until their ratification of the CTBT.

We believe that we are quite close to universalization of the CTBT with 125 ratifications among 176 States that have signed the Treaty. We need to make another big push to remove the remaining hurdles.

It is an imperative, Mr. President, that we act now for ensuring a world free of nuclear weapons. Posterity will judge us harshly if we fail to leave a safer world for our future generations.

I thank you Mr. President.