



BRASIL

CONFERENCE ON THE FACILITATION OF ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CTBT

Statement by Ambassador Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, Permanent Representative of
Brazil to the United Nations and Head of the Brazilian Delegation

Mr. President,

I wish to congratulate you for your election to preside over our work, which we are confident you will ably guide to a fruitful conclusion.

I also wish to make a special reference to the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission, Ambassador Tibor Tóth, in whose tenure we hope to see the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Mr. President,

The year of 2005 has so far been disappointing for disarmament and non-proliferation efforts undertaken in the wider multilateral arena. Last May, the world watched in dismay as deadlock overtook the VII Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and impeded the approval of a Final Document. Adding to this frustration, the Outcome Document adopted by the United Nations High Level Summit this September also lacks reference to disarmament and non-proliferation. This inexcusable omission sends a worrisome signal of insufficient commitment to multilateralism as the only means of effectively tackling security concerns common to the whole of humankind.

A development such as this should highlight the importance of this Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty adopting a strong Final Declaration. Brazil is ready to support the draft as negotiated in Vienna under the competent leadership of Ambassador Deborah Stokes. This Declaration is a glimmer of hope for those nations that, like Brazil, have consistently and relentlessly striven to promote the elimination of all existing weapons of mass destruction and their non-proliferation.

Mr. President,

Brazil has a solid and long-standing record when it comes to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues. As a founding member of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, now ratified by all countries of the region, Brazil helped to establish the first nuclear-weapon-free-zone in an inhabited region of the world. Brazil is also a Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and as such participated actively in the VI and VII Review Conferences in defence of the principles contained in the Treaty and of the commitments agreed to by all States Parties in previous review conferences.

With regard to a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty, Brazil supported its negotiation since the very beginning of multilateral discussions on this issue, in 1962, at the Conference of the Eighteen Nations on Disarmament. More than three decades later, when the Resolution on the CTBT was finally adopted by the General Assembly with 158 votes in favour, Brazil signed the Treaty on the same day it was opened for signature, 24 September 1996, and ratified it on 24 July 1998.

Mr. President,

The CTBT is a key element in the international regime for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. With 175 signatories and 123 ratifying States, the Treaty is well on its way of becoming a universal instrument of a non-discriminatory nature. Its full and effective implementation will represent a significant step towards nuclear disarmament, as it will contribute to balance the inherent asymmetry of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The CTBT is intended to be a bulwark against both vertical and horizontal proliferation, by constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons. It is a step towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

But despite of the widespread adherence to the CTBT, it is clear that the objectives of the Treaty will not be fully attained before ratification by all States listed under Annex II. It is for us a matter of deep concern that the prospects of the entry into force of the Treaty remain bleak. Only one Annex II country has ratified the CTBT since the 2003 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force. Particularly disquieting is the fact that one of the five Nuclear-Weapon States has declared its unwillingness to ratify the Treaty, a decision that Brazil officially deplored, and continues to deplore. We equally deplored the announcement made by another Annex II country that has not signed or ratified the CTBT that it is in possession of nuclear weapons and that it intends to continue to develop them. We take this opportunity to renew our call to the Annex II countries that have not done so, especially the two nuclear powers and those countries that still remain outside the non-proliferation regime, to urgently make the political decisions necessary to join the international community in its efforts to ban nuclear weapons testing once and for all.

We must not fail to express our deep concern at the lack of progress in the implementation of the 13 practical steps on nuclear disarmament agreed to by all States parties at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, and which remain valid. Brazil is troubled by the fact that some countries are now trying to renege those commitments, particularly with respect to the early entry into force of the CTBT, the irreversibility of arms reduction measures and the "unequivocal commitment" to achieve total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. There is simply no valid justification for the use or indefinite possession of such weapons.

There can be no lasting progress in non-proliferation efforts in the absence of commensurate developments in nuclear disarmament. It is worth recalling the special responsibility of the five Nuclear-Weapon States to preserve the CTBT, defend its objectives and promote its swift entry into force. Both individually and as a member of the New Agenda Coalition, Brazil has called upon these States to undo the effects of the nuclear proliferation they engaged in through the development and accumulation of weapons, and hence to strive to achieve nuclear disarmament, as foreseen in Article VI

of the NPT. We commend these States for observing the moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions since the opening for signature of the CTBT. However, the voluntary, unilateral moratoria in not enough to replace the signing and ratification of the CTBT. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are two sides of the same coin.

Mr. President,

The drafters of the CTBT envisaged the forum provided by this Conference as an added encouragement for the early entry into force of the Treaty. We trust that the draft Final Declaration negotiated in Vienna will highlight not only the importance of upholding the CTBT as an essential element in the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation structure, but also the urgent need for its entry into force. We hope for a change in the political attitude of relevant Annex II countries towards ratification of the Treaty, thus allowing it to fully make its contribution for a world free from nuclear weapons.

Thank you.