

September 29, 2015

REMARKS BY DES BROWNE TO THE ARTICLE XIV CONFERENCE

Chair, Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am honoured to address this distinguished gathering on behalf of my fellow GEM members.

I thank H.E. Dr Zerbo for sharing his valuable time with me and I promise not to waste a second of it.

My message is simple, but important.

We have a job to do, and, if we do it in a co-ordinated effort by political leaders, governments, civil society and the international scientific community - we will succeed.

Mindful of both the explicit and implied purposes of this conference, as set out in Article XIV of the Treaty, I offer the collective endeavour of the GEM to work with your co-Presidents and with the States that have deposited their instruments of ratification.

I offer to work on a set of practical steps to facilitate the earliest possible entry into force of this Treaty.

As implied by this conference process, those of us from States Parties that have ratified, have a special obligation and responsibility to work together to bring the Treaty into force.

An implied duty to exert sufficient political and other influence on the States who have not ratified, so to do.

Writing on 24 September for Spectrum, my GEM colleague, H.E. Federica Mogherini, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy, reiterated that "The Treaty's entry into force remains a priority for the European Union and for (herself)..." and argued that the Iran deal bodes well for entry into force of the CTBT.

In doing so, she speaks not only for a Union of 28, but for a continent that has ratified the Treaty and shares her views.

Europeans must ensure that our political voice is heard more loudly on these matters. And we are not alone in that regard, we all have a job to do.

At the political level, we do it with the delivery of a clear and compelling message that can convince those who are hesitant and those who oppose the Treaty outright, that it

is in their best security interests and in the best security interests of the world, if the Treaty is legally binding.

And we do it by celebrating the achievements of the CTBTO.

Today we have a verifiable *de facto* moratorium on testing. We have a robust, well-led organisation in the CTBTO. In fact, those at work to build the organisational, scientific and technical underpinnings of the CTBT have delivered a far better inspection and monitoring system than anyone expected. They have proved that a system of verification could be built and that it could work. After all, that is the basis on which all States Parties signed on to the Treaty in the first place.

Those who haven't ratified, no longer have the political cover offered by any suggestion that the system isn't ready.

So, let us work together to take the final crucial step.

Without that step, all that we have worked so hard to accomplish remains at risk every day that passes without entry into force.

But, with that step, we respond appropriately to the words of His Holiness, Pope Francis, spoken in this very building on Friday, that "There is an urgent need to work for a world free of nuclear weapons..."

Thank You.