



**PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRALIA TO THE PREPARATORY
COMMISSION FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN
TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**Agenda item 10; Progress report on cooperation to facilitate
the entry into force of the Treaty; Statement by Ambassador
Peter Shannon, Australia**

Co-Presidents, Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me begin by congratulating the Co-Presidents on their shared assumption of the Presidency of this fifth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. I greatly welcome the agreement by Costa Rica and Austria to jointly take on this role. The geographic diversity of this arrangement is a positive reflection of the growing universality of the treaty.

As the outgoing coordinator of efforts to facilitate the entry into force of the treaty, I now have the honor to present a "Progress report on cooperation to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty".

In the Final Declaration adopted by consensus at the Conference in 2005, the participating states reaffirmed their determination to continue to work towards the early entry into force of the treaty. Particular emphasis was to be placed on those Annex II states which had yet to ratify.

That the overwhelming majority of states remain committed to goals of the CTBT is evident from the increasing number of states which have signed and ratified the treaty.

In 2005, the total number of states which had signed the treaty was 176. With Montenegro's signature in October 2006, that number has risen to 177, further enhancing the role of the treaty as a fundamental pillar of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Since 2005, the number of states which have ratified the treaty has increased from 125 to 140, with the ratification by the Dominican Republic in September 2007, on the watch of our current coordinators. While such growth is encouraging and emphasises the effectiveness of sustained pressure on signatories to ratify the treaty, only one such ratification was from an Annex II state, Vietnam, which ratified in March 2006. We warmly welcome Vietnam, an important neighbour of Australia. As in 2003 and 2005, the ratification by Annex II states should remain a high priority outreach objective of this meeting.

The Final Declaration of the 2005 Conference agreed upon 12 practical measures to promote the early entry into force of the treaty. One measure Australia paid special attention to was the appointment of a Special Representative to assist the coordinating state in the performance of its role and responsibilities.

From 2005, Ambassador Jaap Ramaker from the Netherlands served as the Special Representative to assist Australia as the coordinating state. Ambassador Ramaker has used the role to make personal visits to states and multilateral fora encouraging states yet to do so, to ratify the treaty. Australian embassies assisted him in making appointments with ministers and senior officials to convey his messages.

Since Ambassador Ramaker will speak directly of his activities I will not say more except to say that Australia has admired his commitment to the treaty and strongly supports his continued involvement as the Special Representative.

As noted by the Executive Secretary just now, since 2005 the secretariat has continued to promote treaty ratification both in bilateral contacts and in multilateral fora and has provided legal assistance to states on the ratification process. Pursuant to measure (j) of the 2005 Conference declaration, the secretariat has actively sought to raise awareness of the benefits of the civil and scientific applications of the verification technologies, particularly in the field of tsunami warning systems and other disaster alert systems. Under measure (k) of the 2005 Conference declaration, the secretariat has also served as a 'focal point' where information about activities undertaken by ratifiers and signatories was collected to assist promoting the entry into force of the treaty. While this list is an impressive reflection on the efforts of several states, more could be done if the burden of raising awareness was embraced by more countries.

I should acknowledge too the important contribution which non-governmental organisations and other elements of civil society continue to make in keeping the treaty before governments. I encourage ratifiers and the secretariat to continue to look for ways to engage with civil society to influence policy makers, political leaders and members of parliament in pursuit of our goal to bring the treaty into force as soon as possible. I would also encourage the coordinators to make greater use of the regional volunteers in their outreach efforts.

In closing, may I thank all of those who during the past two years have helped Australia in its role as coordinator in our common effort to promote the entry into force of the treaty.

I now look forward to hearing from Ambassador Jaap Ramaker, who will give his own account of his work as Special Representative.

Thank you.