

**CTBT Art. XIV Conference**

**Vienna, 17-18 September 2007**

**IRELAND**

**Statement by Ms Alison Kelly,  
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Madam President, Mr. President,

Ireland fully associates itself with the statement made by Portugal on behalf of the European Union. I congratulate you on your election as the Presidents of this Conference, and would also like to express Ireland's appreciation to Ambassador Tóth and all the staff in the Preparatory Commission for their work in preparing for the effective implementation of this Treaty.

This Conference, the seventh since the Treaty was first opened for signature, provides us with an important opportunity to reaffirm our support for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and to explore ways in which we can collectively accelerate its entry into force. By our presence here in Vienna and through the Final Declaration, we can send a clear and unequivocal message to those States that choose not to ratify the CTBT.

The CTBT is central to efforts to strengthen current international disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. By preventing nuclear tests and contributing to the halt in development of nuclear weapons it is contributing to the elimination of horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons. The CTBT does not exist in isolation; it is a central and important component of the network of multilateral instruments to promote disarmament and non-proliferation. The unacceptable delay in the entry into force of the Treaty is deeply disappointing. It not only undermines the CTBT itself, but indeed all other disarmament and non-proliferation instruments vital to global peace and security.

Since we last met in New York in 2005, we now have a total of 140 states that have ratified the Treaty; this is encouraging, especially the ratification by Viet Nam, which leaves just 10 Annex Two States to ratify the Treaty before its entry into force. Ireland calls on those Annex Two States which have yet to ratify the Treaty to do so without delay and without conditions.

In particular, Ireland calls on those States that conducted nuclear tests since this Treaty was opened for signature in 1996 to immediately sign and ratify the Treaty. Such actions would be a significant confidence-building measure by those three States as well as demonstrating to the international community their commitment to the disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. While the observance of a moratorium on testing by all other States is welcomed, it can never be a substitute for the legally-binding prohibition enshrined in the Treaty.

The need for the entry into force of the CTBT has become more critical following the decision of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to conduct a nuclear test on 9 October last year. This provocative act by DPRK ran counter to the objectives of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and was swiftly condemned by the international community. We note, however, that the DPRK has returned to the Six Party talks and commend all parties for the progress made in resolving the outstanding issues surrounding the DPRK's nuclear programme. We urge the DPRK to continue working with the International Atomic Energy Agency in this regard.

Madam President, Mr. President,

As stated already, the CTBT does not exist in isolation, but is an essential component in the international disarmament and non-proliferation network of Conventions and Treaties that frame efforts to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. The CTBT is intrinsically linked to and built on the foundation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The NPT is the corner stone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.

At the 2000 NPT Review Conference, there was agreement by all States to 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI of the NPT. The first of these steps points to the urgency of signing and ratifying the CTBT to allow for its early entry into force. It is disappointing that the momentum generated by the 2000 Review Conference did not last to the 2005 Review Conference. However, we are not discouraged following the setback of 2005, and are of the belief that the first Preparatory Committee of the 2010 Review Cycle held here in Vienna last May signals the start of a renewed constructive effort to remove these weapons from use.

Ireland continues to trust in a rules-based international order and in strong international institutions. We are here today because we have a firm belief in this Treaty and a conviction that all efforts must be taken to bring about its immediate entry into force. To do our part to achieve this Ireland will continue to remain active on all key fronts in the defence of our disarmament and non-proliferation obligations. We call on all other states who share this conviction to do likewise.