



# Guatemala

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Conference on Facilitating the Entry  
into Force of the Comprehensive  
Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Statement by His Excellency

*Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klée*  
Permanent Representative

New York, September 22, 2005

Madam President:

On behalf of the delegation of Guatemala I wish to congratulate you most heartily on your election as president of this Conference.

We have listened with great attention to the Secretary-General's opening statement and share the concerns he has expressed. We wish further to manifest our appreciation for the work done by Mr. Wolfgang Hoffman as Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission. We congratulate and welcome his successor, Ambassador Tibor Toth.

Madam President:

It is now more vital than ever before that the international community deal with the maintenance of international peace and security within the multilateral sphere. The new challenges we face and the growing risk that weapons of mass destruction may fall into the hands of terrorists require renewed and prompt endeavors. We regret the opportunities that have been missed in this regard, both at the most recent Review Conference and in the adoption of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, to come up with a substantial agreement in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. We nevertheless hope that this Conference will provide a new impetus in that direction.

Madam President:

Guatemala reiterates her commitment to disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. This is exemplified by our participation in the Tlatelolco Treaty and the Non-proliferation Treaty, as well as our conclusion of an IAEA Safeguard Agreement. At the national level we have been taking measures with a view to early ratification of the CTBT and have benefited from seminars that have been carried out, at the domestic as well as the regional levels, organized with the assistance of the Preparatory Commission.

I take pleasure in informing that last March Guatemala ratified the Agreement between it and the Preparatory Commission for the establishment of an auxiliary seismic station in the Department of Alta Verapaz. This station is capable of detecting seismic movements throughout the territory of Guatemala as well as the region. We are pleased at the fact that this station strengthens the Treaty's verification system and will contribute to the possibility of utilizing the international verification network we possess for early warning in connection with tsunamis.

In March of this year our Foreign Ministry conducted, in cooperation with the Preparatory Commission, a seminar on the management of natural disaster and the importance of non-proliferation. Its aim was precisely to enable a discussion among government agencies of the benefits of participating in the Treaty and, above all, peaceful uses, including scientific ones, of the verification techniques provided for in the Treaty (seismologic, hydroacoustic, infrasound stations and radionuclides), which can profitably be applied by States Parties.

Yesterday marked the successful conclusion of the CTBT regional workshop for Latin American and Caribbean countries. The purpose of this workshop, hosted by Guatemala, was to provide a deeper insight into the Preparatory Commission's work, the use of technologies forming part of the international monitoring system and a close look at the possible benefits that can be derived from the peaceful use of these processes.

Madam President:

Although Guatemala has not yet ratified the Treaty, we are aware of the need to break the legal impasse hindering this formality and are taking actions to sensitize national institutions in that regard.

I am pleased to inform that those actions are bearing fruit. Our Foreign Ministry has given its final, favorable, opinion on participation in the Treaty, on which basis the President will submit it to our legislature with a view to its approval. We therefore trust to be able to ratify it promptly.

On more than one occasion we have informed the Preparatory Commission of the reasons for our difficulties in making our financial contributions prior to becoming a party to the Treaty. We trust that it will be possible for this Conference to identify and promote measures that will eliminate the financial difficulties experienced by developing countries that, like Guatemala, have the political will to become parties to the Treaty but are prevented from doing so by extraneous factors.

To conclude, I wish once again to express my country's commitment to do all it can to overcome the obstacles standing in the way of its ratification of the Treaty, thus contributing to the accomplishment of the final objective, i. e. its entry into force.

Thank you