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UKRAINE

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STATEMENT
BY H.E. MR. IHOR DOLHOV
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE

AT THE
CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE
OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

22 September 2005
New York

Madam Chairperson/Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Ukrainian Delegation I would like to congratulate H.E. Mr. Alexander Downer on assuming the Presidency of this important Conference. Mr. Downer's devotion and strong efforts for the past months, in cooperation with delegates based in Vienna, have laid a solid foundation for our work. We pledge our support and full cooperation in the pursuit of a productive and successful outcome of this forum.

Let me also express my gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for convening this Conference. I extend my appreciation to Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann, the previous Executive Secretary of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the PrepCom for CTBTO, for his work and the endeavor at building up the Treaty's verification regime. We wish success to Mr. Tibor Toth, the new PC CTBTO Executive Secretary, in his activities aimed at preparation for the Treaty implementation and its entry into force.

Madam Chairperson/Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine associates itself with the Statement made by the Presidency of European Union and strongly supports its appeal *for* an early coming of the Treaty into force.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 1996 after long and extensive negotiations. This was one of the milestone achievements within the international community's contributions to global peace and security, an indispensable step towards non-proliferation and disarmament. The entry into force of the CTBT will tangibly help to realize the noble objective of a safe and peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. Ukraine, whose role in the nuclear disarmament can serve as an example, remains to be one of the strongest and consistent supporters of the standing international instruments in this field.

We deeply deplore the fact that nine years after it was opened for signature, the CTBT has still not entered into force. As of today 176 States have signed the Treaty and 125 States have ratified it. We welcome the announcement made yesterday by Bosnia and Herzegovina to finalize shortly its national procedure to join the Treaty as well as the recent signing of the Treaty by Lebanon and ratification by Vanuatu.

We call upon all States that have not signed the Treaty, and those that have not ratified it, to do so without delay and unconditionally.

We hope that this conference will create further momentum that will result in more States signing or ratifying the Treaty. This applies particularly to those 11 states whose ratification is required in order for the Treaty to enter into force.

Madam Chairperson/Mr. Chairman,

The prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is one of the most important challenges facing the world. At the same time the way to achieve nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation goals is not an easy one. We are convinced that the role of nuclear weapons should be diminished in national security doctrines. Moreover, further upgrading of the nuclear weapons including the miniaturization of the nuclear warheads will lead not only to their vertical proliferation but will increase the risk of their falling into the hands of terrorists.

We are confident that the CTBT has a crucial role to play in the disarmament and non-proliferation regime build up on the foundation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is of the greatest importance that the integrity of the norms set by the CTBT is respected. Pending the Treaty's entry into force, the moratorium on nuclear tests or any other nuclear explosions should be maintained. We call upon nuclear weapon states to further demonstrate their firm determination to observe their obligations in this respect and keep to their commitments once the Treaty enters into force.

Madam Chairperson/Mr. Chairman,

The verification system is at the core of the CTBT. Ukraine is encouraged by the CTBTO Preparatory Commission's efforts to establish the Treaty's verification machinery. Substantial progress has been made in building up this system since the last Article XIV Conference in 2003. Ukraine is confident that an operational monitoring and verification system will provide a credible and effective way to monitor Treaty compliance and is committed to continuing to make a strong contribution towards this goal, including through our hosting of International Monitoring System station. In this regard we support the PrepCom's for CTBTO decision to explore the ways of possible practical contribution to the tsunami warning system.

We therefore stress the importance of adherence by the States Parties to their financial obligations with regard to the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO, which is extremely important at the stage of developing and expanding the verification system envisaged by the Treaty.

Madam Chairperson/Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine supports the draft Final Declaration and Measures to promote the entry into force of the CTBT and reaffirms its determination to further contribute to the efforts, aimed to achieve the goals stipulated by the Treaty.

Thank you.