

# Conference urges States to ratify nuclear test ban



106 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN THE FIFTH CONFERENCE TO PROMOTE THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY.

In September 2007, participants at a conference to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) urged hold-out States to sign and ratify the Treaty. The conference, which was held in Vienna, Austria, adopted its Final Declaration by consensus – a rare commodity in today’s nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation world.

## **One-hundred-and-six countries participate**

Representatives of 106 States, including the two non-signatory States Barbados and Pakistan, participated in the two-day Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT. The Conference took place on 17 and 18 September 2007 in the former imperial Hofburg palace in the centre of Vienna, Austria.

Seven of the remaining so-called Annex 2 States, whose ratification is needed for entry into force but who have yet to ratify the CTBT, participated in the Conference. Six of these joined ratifying States in signing the Final Declaration. These were China, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Israel. Non-signatory and Annex 2 state Pakistan spoke for the first time

**"The Treaty would outlaw all nuclear tests and move us towards the larger goals of ridding the world of nuclear weapons and preventing their proliferation."**

**BAN KI-MOON**  
UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL

since 1999 at the Conference. The three Annex 2 States that did not participate in the Conference were the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, India and the United States of America.

## **Final Declaration sends strong message**

With the Final Declaration the Conference issued a strong political message in support of the Treaty. The document described the ban on nuclear testing

## The Conference

Article XIV of the CTBT deals with the Treaty’s entry into force. The article foresees a mechanism of regular conferences to promote the Treaty’s entry into force, if this has not taken place three years after its opening for signature. The first such Conference took place in Vienna in 1999. Subsequent Conferences were held in New York in 2001 and in 2005, and in Vienna in 2003 and in 2007. The Secretary-General of the United Nations convenes the conference at the request of States that have ratified the Treaty. Representatives of ratifying States are invited to participate in the deliberations. Signatory States, non-signatory States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations are invited to attend as observers.



THE CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE AT THE FORMER IMPERIAL HOFBURG PALACE, VIENNA, AUSTRIA



FOREIGN MINISTERS OF AUSTRIA AND COSTA RICA, URSULA PLASSNIK AND BRUNO STAGNO UGARTE, CO-CHAIRING THE CONFERENCE

**"The key to accelerate the process remains the leadership role the United States would be ready to assume."**

**BRUNO STAGNO UGARTE**  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
WORSHIP OF COSTA RICA

as an "effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects". Ratifiers and Signatories expressed their concern that the Treaty had not entered into force eleven years after its opening for signature on 24 September 1996. Recent political developments "make entry into force of the Treaty more urgent today than ever before", States said.

States welcomed the significant progress that had been made by securing 15 ratifications and one signature in the two years since the last Conference in 2005. The Treaty had achieved near

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**URSULA PLASSNIK**  
MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL  
AFFAIRS OF AUSTRIA

universal adherence with signatures of 177 States and ratifications by 140 of those States. This progress demonstrated "the strong determination of the vast majority of States not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion".

In his message to the Conference, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealed especially to those States whose ratification was needed for the Treaty's entry into force to sign and ratify the Treaty. He said that "the Treaty would outlaw all nuclear tests and move us towards the larger goals of ridding the world of nuclear weapons and preventing their proliferation".

### **Austria and Costa Rica co-chair**

The two chairs of the Conference, Foreign Ministers of Austria and Costa Rica, Ursula Plassnik and Bruno Stagno Ugarte, jointly called on the United States to take up a leadership role in the CTBT ratification process. Ministers Plassnik and Stagno Ugarte voiced optimism over developments in the United States and made particular reference to an article published by former foreign and defence policy leaders of the Democratic and the Republican Parties who advocated bipartisan support for the CTBT<sup>1</sup>. "The key to accelerate the process remains the leadership role the United States would be ready to assume", Minister Stagno Ugarte said.

<sup>1</sup> 'A World Free of Nuclear Weapons' by Shultz, Perry, Kissinger and Nunn published in the Wall Street Journal 4 January 2007.



DELEGATES FOLLOW THE PROCEEDINGS.



THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION EXCHANGES VIEWS WITH THE UN OFFICE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS.

The shared chairmanship by Austria and Costa Rica was new in the history of the Conference. The Ministers said it symbolized their shared concern over weapons of mass destruction. “This shared Presidency by two CTBT Member States representing two different geographic regions symbolizes the global support for the Treaty,” Minister Plassnik said in her opening remarks.

**"As the only nation ever to have suffered nuclear devastation, Japan calls on the international community to ensure that nuclear testing is never carried out by any country ever again."**

**HITOSHI KIMURA**  
SENIOR VICE-MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JAPAN

## Annex 2 States

The so-called Annex 2 States are those 44 States listed in Annex 2 of the CTBT who must have ratified the Treaty for it to enter into force. These States participated in the negotiations on the Treaty in 1996 and possessed nuclear facilities at that time. Currently, 34 of the 44 States have ratified the Treaty including the three nuclear weapon States France, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom. The ten countries that have not yet ratified the Treaty are: China, Colombia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States of America. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, India and Pakistan have not yet signed the Treaty.

### Rapid build-up of verification regime

The build-up of the CTBT verification regime has moved on steadily and with remarkable results, said Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). In the two years since the last Conference promoting the Treaty, the number of certified monitoring facilities had increased by 60%. The data volume sent to States Signatories had doubled, while the overall data volume had tripled. The verification regime also had to endure a performance test when the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea claimed on 9 October 2006 that it had conducted a nuclear test. This test “constituted the most serious trial to the norm against nuclear testing for many years”, Tóth said. The announced test by the DPRK constituted a validation of the CTBT global verification system, which proved its value to States Signatories. Tóth also stressed that, as regrettable and disquieting as the test had been, it had also underscored the urgency of bringing the Treaty into force and completing the build-up of the CTBT verification system.



LILLY GUNDAKER OF THE WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE INTERNATIONAL SPEAKS ON BEHALF OF 44 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.



THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION DELIBERATES.

### Many call for entry into force

Jaap Ramaker, the Special Representative to promote the entry into force of the CTBT, reported that he had visited most of the Annex 2 non-ratifying countries in recent years. He said that “the world needs a complete ban on nuclear weapon test explosions. It needs the CTBT. This Treaty will cap the development of ever more destructive weapons. It constitutes the last barrier against a nuclear programme turning into a nuclear weapons programme.”

A particularly emotional appeal was made by the representative of Japan. Against the backdrop of the nuclear test by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in October 2006, Hitoshi Kimura, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, said that it was imperative to maintain a moratorium on nuclear testing. “As the only nation ever to have suffered nuclear devastation, Japan calls on the international community to ensure that nuclear testing is never carried out by any country ever again.”

**"The EU will continue to work together with all ratifiers to persuade those States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty of its essential role in curbing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and advancing nuclear disarmament."**

**JOÃO GOMES CRAVINHO**  
SECRETARY OF STATE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION OF PORTUGAL, ON BEHALF OF THE EU

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**JAAP RAMAKER**  
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO PROMOTE THE CTBT RATIFICATION PROCESS

Speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU), João Gomes Cravinho, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Portugal, emphasized the EU’s commitment to a universal nuclear test ban. “The EU will continue to work together with all ratifiers to persuade those States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty of its essential role in curbing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and advancing nuclear disarmament, thereby significantly contributing to the enhancement of international peace and stability.” The EU was in a unique position to promote the CTBT since all 27 member states have signed and ratified the Treaty.

### Nuclear weapon States bear special responsibility

Speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), H.E. Dato' Mohd Arshad M. Hussein, Permanent Representative of Malaysia, emphasized that multilaterally agreed solutions provided “the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament



TIBOR TÓTH, CTBTO, BRUNO STAGNO UGARTE AND URSULA PLASSNIK, CO-CHAIRS, AND SERGIO DUARTE, UNSG'S REPRESENTATIVE, MEET THE PRESS.



DARYL KIMBALL, ARMS CONTROL ASSOCIATION, JAAP RAMAKER, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE, ANDREAS PERSBO, VERTIC, AND DAVID HAFEMEISTER, CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, DISCUSS THE CTBT AND ITS VERIFIABILITY ON THE MARGINS OF THE CONFERENCE.

and international security issues.” He reiterated NAM's long-standing position for the total elimination of all nuclear testing. All nuclear weapon states, “as well as those States that possess nuclear weapon capabilities,” were called upon “to observe the spirit and the letter of the CTBT” and abide by their commitments in the Non-Proliferation Treaty to reduce and eliminate these weapons.

On the margins of the Conference, the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre, VERTIC, and the Arms Control Association hosted a seminar. The title, *The CTBT: Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities*, reflected the topics addressed by the moderator and three well-known presenters from the governmental and non-governmental communities and US academia. With over 120 participants, the seminar was well attended.

**"NAM strongly calls upon all nuclear weapon States as well as all those States that possess nuclear weapons capabilities to observe the spirit and letter of the CTBT."**

**DATO' MOHD ARSHAD M. HUSSEIN**  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA,  
ON BEHALF OF THE NAM

At the seminar, Daryl Kimball, Executive Director of the Arms Control Association, spoke on the prospects for CTBT ratification by the United States. He said that Treaty ratification was “within reach”. Conditions conducive to US Senate approval of the CTBT should be created, including strong Presidential and bipartisan support for the Treaty and popular support from the US public. He said it was “vital that CTBT supporters put the Treaty back on the US political map ... and move to secure ratification by other key States before it is too late.” David Hafemeister, Professor Emeritus at the California Polytechnic State University, USA, made a positive presentation on the CTBTO’s “Decade of Achievements”. Hafemeister pointed out the technical strengths of the verification regime, in particular its capability to detect and identify potential underground nuclear explosions of a low yield. He said that the CTBT was not only “really important” in the political sense, but that it was also “effectively verifiable”.



THE RECEPTION ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE PROVIDED THE SETTING FOR MANY DISCUSSIONS AMONG DELEGATES.



THE CTBTO EXHIBITION *VERIFYING THE CTBT* WAS DISPLAYED DURING THE CONFERENCE.



CTBTO TECHNICAL EXPERTS DEMONSTRATE HOW THE CTBTO VERIFICATION REGIME WORKS.

## Appeal from 44 NGOs

A total of 17 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) responded to the invitation to attend the Conference as observers. Lilly Gundacker of the Women's Federation for World Peace International addressed the Conference on behalf of 44 NGOs from around the world. She said that "the CTBT is important to all States". But she addressed the United States and China in particular when she said that the "world's patience is wearing thin with Signatory States that do not appear to be exerting good faith efforts to ratify." On behalf of the international NGO community, she called on both countries to come forward and ratify the CTBT.

In closing with an emotional appeal, Gundacker reminded participants of the moral dimension of the CTBT. She told participating States that "your citizens and future generations depend on your wisdom and courage to protect them from the effects of the most dangerous weapons ever to curse humanity". She reiterated that "no Government should stand in the way of this indispensable step toward eliminating the threat of nuclear weapons and preventing nuclear war."

**"No Government should stand in the way of this indispensable step toward eliminating the threat of nuclear weapons and preventing nuclear war."**

**LILLY GUNDACKER**  
**WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE INTERNATIONAL, ON BEHALF OF 44 NGOs**

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