

*UKRAINE on
behalf of*

Statement
by H.E. Mr. VOLODYMYR YEL'CHENKO,
on behalf of the Organisation for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM,
at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
(17-18 September 2007, Vienna)

Agenda item 12: General exchange of views by ratifiers and signatories on facilitating the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Madam President, Mr. President,

While Ukraine and [...] have associated themselves with the statement delivered by the European Union, now I have the honour speak also on behalf of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova, member States of the Organisation for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM.

Let me at the outset congratulate Ambassador Ana Teresa Dengo of Costa Rica and Ambassador Thomas Stelzer of Austria as co-chairs of the Conference. Your election truly reflects recognition of your countries' continuous efforts in promoting the Treaty's entry into force. We trust that under your joint chairmanship the Conference will achieve positive results and pave the way to more ratifications, as well as bring new participants to the Treaty.

Madam President, Mr. President,

GUAM places the utmost importance on the earliest possible entry into force of the Treaty. We have worked consistently to achieve this goal.

Our countries always diligently implemented and now strictly uphold all the CTBT provisions and remain among the strongest and consistent supporters of the standing international instruments in this field.

The nuclear test carried out by the DPR of Korea in October 2006 has clearly demonstrated the need for as early entry into force of the Treaty as possible.

Dear colleagues and delegates,

One can hardly overestimate the role of the Treaty in the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which remains one of the most important challenges facing the international community today. At the time, when the world faces the increased risk of nuclear technologies falling into the hands of terrorists organizations, we all must redouble our efforts, in order to avert the evil scenarios being contemplated elsewhere and to strengthen peace and security on our planet. At the same time, we are convinced that the role of nuclear weapons should be diminished in national security doctrines.

GUAM countries are confident that the CTBT has a crucial role to play in the disarmament and non-proliferation regime built upon 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. We note with satisfaction that since the last Conference, 15 new countries have ratified the Treaty and the number of the CTBT ratifications rose to 140.

Madam President, Mr. President,

Ukraine, whose role in the nuclear disarmament can serve as an example, has made its crucial contribution to achieving this goal. It's been more than a decade since Ukraine renounced the then third largest nuclear weapons arsenal. We signed and ratified the Treaty and implement diligently our obligations and commitments under the global non-proliferation regime.

I am proud to say that during the Ukrainian Chairmanship at the CTBTO Preparatory Commission in 2006 all Eastern European countries ratified the Treaty, thus making substantial contribution to the Treaty's coming into effect.

Last October Ukraine hosted the NDC Evaluation Workshop, and camp training "Site inspections" was conducted this June in the Chernobyl zone under the auspices of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO. Not only representatives of State Parties but also Signatories took part in these events.

In the framework of future CTBTO's verification system, Ukraine is prepared for the Treaty's entry into force. We keep its primary seismology station ready to work in full-scale regime under the International Monitoring System.

Dear colleagues,

GUAM reaffirms its commitment to the provisions of the Final Declaration and its determination to further contribute to the efforts aimed to achieve the goals stipulated by the Treaty.

I thank you.