

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

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Statement by Ms. Tone Skogen
State Secretary of Norway

Secretary-General, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A world free of nuclear weapons is a vision that Norway shares with the majority of states in this world. A comprehensive test ban is imperative to prevent further proliferation. A Treaty that enters into force would be a concrete step towards fulfilling our shared vision.

Next year, we will mark the 20th anniversary of a Treaty that has more than 160 State Parties. The Monitoring System is for the most part in place. And yet, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is unable to enter into force, and we are gathered here again for an Article XIV Conference. The eight remaining States that have not yet ratified have a special responsibility. Norway strongly urges these eight States to ratify – without delay.

Secretary-General,

While we wait for these ratifications, it is important to complete the International Monitoring System. I am pleased to inform you that Norway completed its part of the system in

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September last year by finalizing the last of the six monitoring stations on Norwegian territory. Norway calls on all States to finish their parts of the system.

Norway also urges all State Signatories to provide political and financial support for the Provisional Technical Secretariat, so that it can complete and maintain the verification regime.

Capacity building related to the technical work of the CTBT is highly important. Norway will continue to be a committed contributor to these efforts. I would like to extend our appreciation of the Provisional Technical Secretariat and the Executive Secretary for their work in preparing for the implementation of the treaty.

Secretary-General,

We share the vision of a world without nuclear weapons. Some developments since the Article XIV Conference two years ago pave the path towards this goal:

- The agreement on Iran's nuclear program provides an opportunity that can benefit the international community, as well as the Middle East and Iran.
- The facts-based approach to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, and the progress on developing tools for verification of disarmament, are adding important dimensions to the discussion on nuclear disarmament and proliferation.
- The Nuclear Security Summits have contributed substantially to nuclear security and to keeping fissile material beyond the reach of terrorists.

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But we have also seen disappointing developments:

- The inability of the NPT Review Conference to reach consensus on an outcome document.
- The Conference on Disarmament cannot agree on a work plan and has in reality ceased to function.

Secretary-General,

The agreement in the world community is broad: we want a world without nuclear explosions. The cornerstone of the multilateral instruments to ensure this is the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. After twenty years of waiting, let us finally get the business done. For a safer world, and ultimately, for a world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you.