



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
VIENNA

Statement
by
His Excellency Ambassador Moitinho de Almeida
Head of Delegation of Portugal
to the
Twentieth Anniversary Meeting
of the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
Vienna, 13 June 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, **Mrs. Federica Mogherini**,
Chair of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, Foreign Minister of Romania, **Mr. Lazăr Comănescu**,
Co-Chair of the CTBT entry into force process, Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, **Mr. Erlan Idrisov**,
United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, **Mr. Kim Won-soo**,
and CTBTO Executive Secretary, **Mr. Lassina Zerbo**,

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Portugal fully shares the views expressed in the statement made earlier on behalf of the EU by its High Representative and would like to highlight some aspects from a national perspective.

First, I would like to thank the Executive Secretary, the Chair of the PrepCom and staff members of the CTBTO for the preparatory work of this meeting.

This event represents an historic moment in the long process towards a clear objective: a ban on nuclear explosions by everyone, everywhere.

Having signed the Treaty in September 1996 and ratified it in June 2000, Portugal remains fully committed to its goals - including by hosting three monitoring stations in the Azores archipelago.

The effective work of the Organization makes nuclear explosive tests today stand out as anomalies. Nonetheless, our work is still incomplete - two decades after its signature in 1996, the Treaty has yet to enter into force. In fact, the importance of the Treaty's entry into force was clearly demonstrated again recently, with the nuclear tests carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea earlier this year. Therefore, Portugal strongly urges the countries that have still not signed and/or ratified the Treaty to do it as soon as possible.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Education, engagement and emancipation can help us, acting collectively and resolutely, to bring the Treaty into force.

On education, we would like to highlight the concrete benefits of the Treaty and the Organization; in this regard, co-operation amongst countries and engagement with civil society, academia and media are key-elements to help enhance public awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions. The benefits and added value of the Treaty to peace, security and non-proliferation, can and should be more widely recognized. There can be no denial that, even when applying the most stringent criteria, CTBT is an effective Treaty.

Concerning engagement, standing beside the countries that have yet not ratified the Treaty, accompanying them on the next stage of their ratification processes – but not trying to prescribe the route or the direction – is essential. If the work already done by the Organization, albeit still on its provisional capacity, is quite remarkable, there is no doubt that when a fully functional and permanent CTBTO is finally in place, the results will be even more impressive and beneficial.

Finally, emancipation. Emancipation from what may be called the tyranny of tradition; from what President Kennedy, laying his vision on a ban on nuclear tests in 1963, called a “dangerous, defeatist believe that a ban is impossible, that violence is inevitable and mankind doomed, gripped by forces we cannot control”. The effective International Technical Cooperation – embodied in the CTBTO, built and maintained by all Member states, ratifiers and non-ratifiers alike – demonstrates that it is possible for countries with different perspectives to work effectively together on a collective goal, benefiting all.

Mr. Chair,

Portugal, as one of the Article XIV 2015 vice-presidents, can bear witness to the added value of the Treaty and of the Organization, with concrete examples, such as a recent partnership signed between the Portuguese Sea and Atmosphere Institute and the CTBTO.

Promoting the CTBT is one of the Portugal's key disarmament and non-proliferation priorities. We strongly support the continued development of the Treaty's global verification regime.

Disarmament and non-proliferation are complex issues - changes can be slow and oftentimes must be gradual - but the time to bring the CTBT into force is now.

Thank you.