

Myanmar

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Statement

by

**His Excellency U Mya Than
Ambassador / Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Union of Myanmar in Geneva**

at

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

Vienna, Austria, 4 September 2003

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Mr. President,

At the outset, I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to you, on your unanimous election to preside over this important Conference. I am fully confident that, under your able leadership, our deliberations will produce tangible results that will enhance the prospects for an ^{early} entry into force of the CTBT.

My tribute also goes to the other Members of the Bureau.

Mr. President,

The convening of this Conference reaffirms, once again, the crucial importance of the ^{Comprehensive} Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and underscores the urgent need for an early entry into force of the Treaty.

This is the Third Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT. The First Conference was held in Vienna in 1999; and the Second Conference in New York in 2001. This Conference has an important task before it. That task is to decide as to what measures may be undertaken to facilitate an early entry into force of the Treaty and to explore ways and means to achieve this objective.

Mr. President,

This Conference is taking place against the background of growing threats of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction as well as that of further proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The tragic events of 11 September 2001 ^{have} ~~has~~ awakened the world to the horrendous dangers of terrorism. At the same time, the world has been vividly reminded of the growing threats of the proliferation and the possible use of weapons of mass destruction. Today, a grave concern, shared by all of us, is about the much-dreaded possibility of the combination of those two evils: a nightmarish scenario of terrorists using weapons of mass destruction.

These realities and developments have further underscored the crucial importance of the CTBT.

Mr. President,

Myanmar is an ardent advocate of nuclear disarmament. We believe that a phased programme of nuclear disarmament, leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons, ~~such a programme~~ should encompass integral and interlocking steps that must per force be implemented to achieve our common goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The thirteen steps, laid down by the 2000 NPT Review Conference, are such integral and interlocking steps.

Mr. President,

The first of the thirteen steps is, of course, an early entry force of the CTBT.

The CTBT has already established itself as a powerful international standard against nuclear tests in all environments. The Treaty has so far attained ~~107~~¹⁶⁸ signatures and 104 ratifications. However, Article XIV of the Treaty provides that its entry into force requires ratifications by the 44 states, listed in Annex II to Treaty. It is incumbent on all signatories and participants in this Conference to ensure that the CTBT enters into force at ~~the~~^{an} earliest possible date.

Mr. President,

Nuclear test sites the world over must fall silent in all environments for all times.

It is, therefore, incumbent on all of us to redouble our efforts to achieve an early entry into force of the CTBT. We are not under-estimating the daunting difficulties to be overcome. But we do hope that the supporters of the CTBT will remain steadfast and unremitting in their efforts to secure an early entry into force of the Treaty. We are ready, together with other countries, to explore ways and means to facilitate this process.

To this end, let us do our utmost to accomplish the first step in the process of nuclear disarmament and thereby strengthen international peace and security.

I thank you. Mr. President.