

**CTBT: Conferência do Artigo XIV**  
**Viena, 3 a 5 de Setembro de 2003**  
Projecto de intervenção

Thank you Mr. President,

May I seize this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of this Conference and to wish you all the success in your endeavours.

The Portuguese Foreign Minister very much regrets that he is unable to attend this meeting.

Mr. President,

The delegation of Portugal entirely subscribes to the views expressed by the Presidency of the European Union.

My country is fully committed to the purposes of the Treaty and supports all measures and efforts intended to promote its entry into force.

The steady build-up of the world's most extensive and efficient verification and monitoring regime, unprecedented in the international system, illustrates in our view the success behind the CTBT process and the strong commitment of a large number of States to a fully operational organisation. Portugal will be hosting three monitoring stations in the Azores.

Mr. President,

My country is aware of the difficulties we are faced with when striving for the universalisation of the Treaty, seven years after its opening to signature. We strongly feel that, by holding this Conference, we are reiterating our unequivocal support for the entrance into force of the Treaty and, not to be dismissed, we are contributing to raising public awareness to the significance of the Treaty. We specially welcome the list of measures to promote the entry into force of the CTBT, due to be approved in the course of this Conference.

Mr. President,

We all agree that terrorism and weapons of mass destruction are one of the major threats our countries are facing in the present and in the foreseeable future. The interdiction of nuclear testing is a crucial step in preventing the production of such weapons.

Therefore, Mr. President, allow me to join previous speakers in calling upon all states that have not yet signed and ratified the Treaty to do so without delay and unconditionally.

Thank you.