

**Statement by the Delegation of Barbados to the Conference on
Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive
Nuclear Test Ban Treaty,
September 17-18, 2007, Vienna Austria**

Thank you Mr. President,

On behalf of the government of Barbados I wish to extend congratulations to you and your honorable Co-chair on your joint election to the Presidency and to commend you for the effective manner in which the proceedings have unfolded.

I also wish to acknowledge the efforts of the Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and to express our appreciation for their continued engagement with Barbados on this important issue as well as for facilitating the Barbados delegation's participation at this meeting.

It would be recalled that Barbados has not yet signed and ratified the CTBT. This has primarily been as a result of capacity constraints in our capital and does not in any way deflect from our support for the CTBT and for the matter of non-proliferation. The position of the Barbados Government has always been that universal ratification of the CTBT and other disarmament treaties is essential to supporting global peace and security as well as for fostering transparency and enhanced confidence between states.

Our participation in this present conference is an indication of our renewed engagement on this issue to make signature and ratification of the CTBT a national priority.

It is clear that small island developing states such as Barbados have much to gain from becoming a signatory of the treaty. Aside from the global significance of enhancing human security which would result from the entering into force of the treaty; the technical verification procedures, the international monitoring system and the data collection and analysis which the CTBT conducts and facilitates are of extreme importance to small developing countries such as Barbados. It is after all well recognized that SIDS are vulnerable to seismic shifts, climate change, rising sea levels and other potential disastrous environmental conditions and may not have the human and technological capacity to conduct the necessary assessments and tests which could prevent widespread damage and devastation. We note with great interest the potential breadth and scope of the scientific and technological outputs related to the CTBT.

Although Barbados neither produces nor possesses nuclear weapons, it is clear that there are benefits to becoming a signatory to the CTBT. As alluded to previously, these benefits are multifaceted and will result in important practical advantages to our country in the areas of disaster preparedness and environmental monitoring,

The Barbados delegation attending this meeting today wishes to assure you Mr. President and all signatories of the CTBT, that the national authorities are highly aware of the importance of the CTBT to both international peace and security as well as to the aversion of potential disasters and have been working diligently to maintain the momentum towards CTBT signature and ratification. In this light we call on all other member states of the UN who have not yet signed or ratified, particularly those countries listed in Annex II, to continue to give positive consideration to ratifying this instrument as early as possible.

Mr. President, in conclusion, let me once again thank the Executive Secretariat for their continued advocacy, and the Government of Austria for hosting this event and indicate that we are confident that the CTBT family of signatories will soon be able to welcome Barbados into its fold.

Thank you.

Matthew Wilson

Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations at Geneva