



Statement
by H.E. Mr. Cristian DIACONESCU,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania

Conference to Facilitate the Entry into Force of the
Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
New York, September 24, 2009

Your Excellencies,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as co-chairs of the Conference to Facilitate the Entry into Force of the CTBT and I assure you of Romania's full support in your important endeavor. I would also like to thank the Ambassadors of Austria and Costa Rica for their efforts during the past two years.

Romania fully shares the views expressed by the European Union Presidency and I would like now to make some brief remarks in national capacity.

Let me commend the initiative of convening the Security Council Summit on nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. I am certain that the open manner in which the Heads of States and Governments approached the topic at this meeting may have a significant positive impact on the dynamics of the debates conducted in other international fora. From the perspective of our gathering here in Conference room 3, we must not lose sight that in its operative paragraph 7 of the resolution 1887, adopted short while ago, the Security Council called upon "all States to refrain from conducting a nuclear test explosion and to join the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), thereby bringing the treaty into force at an early date".

Mr. Co-presidents,

Romania ratified the CTBT in 1999, and we are pleased to see the growing number of states which signed (181) and ratified (149) the Treaty so far as a real acknowledgement of the importance for the international community to have this Treaty in force. We sincerely hope that the present event will send another strong message to all states which have not signed and/or ratified it yet to join the majority that has done so, contributing to consolidating the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regimes. I dare repeat what has been said time and again that universal ratification of CTBT and completion of its verification system represent paramount instruments in achieving the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty's objectives and nuclear disarmament in general.

It is important for all of us to send a strong message on the need to sooner rather than later complete this already too long procedure.

In order for words to show true value, I would like to let you know about concrete elements stemming from our national experience: Romania continues to provide specific contributions to the efforts of the CTBTO PrepCom in Vienna to implement the Treaty's verification mechanism. In this regard, the Romanian National Data Center actively cooperates with the Vienna Secretariat in order to keep the seismic station located in Muntele Rosu up to technical and operational standards as described in the Operational Manual of seismic monitoring and international exchange of seismic data.

This Center provides to the International Data Center (IDC) in Vienna, supplementary information related to locate events on the Romanian territory and participates in verification tests of the International Monitoring System (IMS) network. The Romanian Center is the only one that provides monthly seismic bulletins to the IDC. These bulletins are useful in evaluating IMS network detection capacity and in improving IDC's precision for localization of events. At the same time, it is worthy to know that our National Data Center is cooperating with other national data centers from the US, Germany, Norway, Italy, France, being actively engaged in scientific and technical activities within the CTBT framework.

Results of experiments and tests conducted at Muntele Roșu are regularly presented to the Working Group B meetings and to different international events, the latest being the International Scientific Studies Conference held in June 2009 in Vienna.

These are just a few elements to underscore my country's strong commitment to international efforts towards dismantling as soon as possible nuclear testing facilities, a task even more important now given the DPRK's nuclear test earlier this year and recent threats of continuing on this dangerous path. Strengthening the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission who reacted promptly and proved its capabilities on that occasion should be a priority for all of us. I will take this opportunity to appreciate Ambassadors Tibor Toth and Jaap Ramaker joined endeavors dedicated to the entry into force of the Treaty.

I would like to encourage this meeting to conclude its work with clear commitments towards further ratifications which would enable the entry into force of the Treaty, bringing thus a new impetus for the negotiations during the Review Conference of the NPT next year. Showing real political will to ratify the CTBT by the whole international community is crucial at this juncture in advancing our work.

In this broader context, I would like to bring to your attention an activity that was carried out successfully by Romania early this summer, with the valuable support of the Russian Federation and US Governments, under the auspices of IAEA: we completed the repatriation of Highly Enriched Uranium to the Russian Federation, contributing to increase the level of nuclear security worldwide. Romania became the 14th country from which the highly enriched spent fuel has been removed and repatriated. This operation was the very first authorized shipment of spent fuel by air.

Let me end my comments by expressing once again the wish that this Conference would create a positive momentum for achieving our common goal – bringing into force the CTBT at an early stage.

Thank you.