



**I T A L Y**

**CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE  
OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY**

**STATEMENT BY  
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Mr. Co-Presidents,

In the recent months, a wind of change has blown over a number of regions of the world bringing hope for a better future for all. A future in which global disarmament initiatives will regain momentum and concrete measures towards a safer and more stable world can be achieved.

This Conference represents an important occasion to reiterate our strong support to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), as one of the key instruments to turn our vision into reality. I would like to thank the convening Countries for taking this initiative and for allowing the participating delegations to express their shared belief that CTBT entry into force is within reach.

Mr. Co-Presidents,

In this same room, on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, we celebrated the International Day against Nuclear Test. Furthermore, this month marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening for signature of the CTBT. On both occasions the European Union has issued relevant statements. We fully endorse those statements as well as the one made today by the distinguished representative of the EU. It is therefore on a national basis that I would like to add a few remarks.

Mr. Co-Presidents,

There is no doubt that significant progress has been made towards the universalization of the CTBT and that the voluntary moratorium on nuclear test explosions, which has been declared by some States and for which we commend them, represents an important intermediary goal, as well as a useful confidence-building measure.

Nonetheless, without the ratification by those States that are listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty, the entry into force of the CTBT continues to be impossible. We strongly call upon all those States to sign and ratify the CTBT at the earliest so as to allow for its entry into force. Meanwhile, we urge all States concerned to observe a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions.

Mr. Co-Presidents,

We have reiterated this call on a number of occasions in the past, since we are convinced of the importance of the CTBT as a means to strengthen international

security, a measure that will effectively enhance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects.

The CTBT, with its provisions for an international monitoring system and the establishment of an effective and non discriminatory verification regime, represents a core element in the international security architecture. As recently demonstrated on the occasion of the Fukushima incident, it can also provide for a useful tool in the field of early warning and alert system for natural disasters.

We commend the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for the progress achieved so far and encourage its work aimed at early completion of the International Monitoring System (IMS). On a national level, we are committed to the full implementation of its provisions and we participate in the establishment of the IMS.

Mr. Co-Presidents,

As part of the international community, Italy has strongly supported the CTBT. We remain fully engaged in the common efforts to promote further actions to facilitate its universalization and ultimately its entry into force.

We are aware of the difficulties and we understand the reasons still prevailing in some countries and certain areas, but we remain convinced that through a genuine dialogue and the adoption of confidence-building measures we can create the necessary conditions for overcoming the present obstacles.

Mr. Co-Presidents,

Two years ago we adopted by consensus a declaration outlining a number of measures aimed at encouraging further signature and ratification of the CTBT. It is our hope that this Conference will play an important role in reinforcing our action in this direction, as stated in the Final Declaration that we are going to adopt unanimously at the end of our work.

Our expectations remain very high on the possibility to reach our goal, thus witnessing the entry into force of the CTBT become a reality in the nearest future. Once again, we reiterate our call upon all those States which have not yet signed and ratified the Treaty to do so as soon as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Co-Presidents.