



PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
333 EAST 38TH STREET 9TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10016  
Tel: (212) 213-5583 Fax: (212) 692-2498  
E-mail: pmun@southafrica-newyork.net

**STATEMENT  
BY**

**H.E. AMBASSADOR ABDUL SAMAD MINTY,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT GENEVA AND  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION IN SWITZERLAND**

**AT  
THE CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY  
INTO FORCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-  
TEST-BAN TREATY (ARTICLE XIV CONFERENCE)**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
NEW YORK  
23 SEPTEMBER 2011**

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President,

Allow me to add my congratulations on your election as President to this seventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

My delegation also wishes to thank the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for the preparation of the relevant conference documents, and the Executive Secretary and his staff for their dedication and professionalism in executing the Commission's mandate towards the entry into force of the Treaty.

President,

South Africa has consistently expressed the view that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is not a stand-alone instrument. It is our view that the CTBT forms part of a treaty regime that encompasses an interlinking framework of obligations, commitments and undertakings that focus on preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons; that provide for nuclear disarmament; and allow the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. As such, it serves to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons, as well as the improvement and the development of new types of nuclear weapons, whilst preventing the resumption of nuclear testing.

We have in the past collectively underscored the importance of the CTBT as a key instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. However, our common objective of a world free of the threat of nuclear weapons is being impeded by the continued non-entry into force of this Treaty. The entry into force of the CTBT is therefore a pressing goal and a non-negotiable commitment. We must, without delay, live up to this responsibility and collectively work with all concerned to achieve the entry into force of this important pillar of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

President,

After 14 years since the CTBT opened for signature, and continuing to call for its early entry into force, immediate action is required. We cannot allow this important investment to be wasted, and South Africa therefore calls on all those Annex 2 States whose signature and ratification is required for the Treaty to enter into force, but who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Treaty without any further delay.

In this regard, South Africa wishes to congratulate Trinidad and Tobago on signing the Treaty and Ghana on its ratification of the Treaty.

President,

The nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 9 October 2006 and 25 May 2009 illustrated that we cannot become complacent

about achieving the entry into force of the CTBT. These tests have however also demonstrated that the Treaty's envisaged verification regime is already functional to a large extent. In this context, my delegation commends the efforts by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to assist in the process by providing legal and technical information and advice. My delegation also welcomes the progress made in building up the verification system, which shall be capable of verifying compliance with the Treaty at its entry into force.

Whilst South Africa welcomes the progress towards universality of the CTBT and its entry into force, my delegation calls upon all States to continue a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions, or any other nuclear explosions. However, we wish to reaffirm that although voluntary adherence to such a moratorium is a positive step, it does not have the same permanent and legally binding nature, as would the entry into force of the CTBT. South Africa remains fully committed to the Treaty and calls on all States to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty.

President,

South Africa will continue to lend its support to international efforts aimed at accelerating the entry into force of the CTBT, including meetings such as this aimed at raising political momentum for the Treaty's early entry into force.

I thank you.