

**LITHUANIA**

**ADDRESS BY**

**H.E. Dr. ŠARŪNAS ADOMAVIČIUS,**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA TO  
THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANISATION**

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

**3-5 SEPTEMBER 2003, VIENNA**

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Mr. President,

I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of this Conference. I am convinced that your able leadership will bring this Conference to a success.

Lithuania fully associates itself with the statement made by Italy on behalf of the European Union and the Acceding Countries. At the same time I would like to touch upon certain important issues from the perspective of my delegation.

Mr. President,

The third Conference on facilitating the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) goes ahead at the time when the international community is increasingly challenged by the threats of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and lack of compliance with international norms. Let us hope that this Conference will serve as a strong political impulse to the process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation that apparently experiences certain difficulties.

Lithuania warmly welcomes recent ratification of the treaty by Algeria as one Annex 2 country. This is a very positive and important step that certainly brings the CTBT closer to its entry into force. We also welcome ratifications during the year 2003 by Cote d'Ivoire, Albania, Mauritania, Kuwait, Oman and Cyprus that brings the number of countries that have deposited the instruments of ratification to 104. These are very encouraging signs. Nevertheless we remain very concerned that 3 out of 44 states, whose ratification is required for the entry into force, have not yet even signed the Treaty.

Lithuania ratified the CTBT in February 2000 and undertook all necessary measures to implement its provisions at the national level. Lithuania has also implemented the Additional Protocol to the agreement with IAEA on application of safeguards and looks forward to joining international export control regimes.

We reaffirm our strong commitment to the Treaty and its verification regime. We attach our utmost importance to the entering of treaty into force at the earliest possible date. Lithuania together with other ratifiers has signed the Joint Ministerial Statement in support of the CTBT.

Mr. President,

Since the adoption of the Treaty in 1996 the Preparatory Commission has continued to maintain a steady build-up of the global verification regime in order to make it fully and effectively operational by the time the CTBT will enter into force. Provisional Technical Secretariat must be commended for its efforts undertaken in cooperation with Signatory States in arranging comprehensive training programs, international events and initiatives with the view to facilitate entering into force of the treaty, in maintaining steady build-up of the international monitoring and global communication infrastructure as well as in ensuring timely development of onsite inspection programme.

Lithuania considers the CTBT as an fundamental instrument in the global architecture of nuclear disarmament process through the effective and verifiable cessation of nuclear weapons test explosions. Lithuania is convinced that confidence building measures, transparency and irreversibility of disarmament and non-proliferation processes are fundamental principles that through the internationally concerted efforts will constitute an indispensable political framework for further facilitation of CTBT entering into force. An effective implementation of CTBT will accomplish the entirety of international legal instruments that together with regional and national measures will make an essential contribution to the global non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and disarmament.

Mr. President,

Lithuania notes with deep satisfaction that all the European Union Member States and the Acceding Countries have ratified the treaty. It stands ready to further participate in all activities of the Preparatory Commission aimed at promoting universal adherence to the treaty and its entry into force. Lithuania pledges its full support to the Final Declaration of this Conference that reaffirms a determination to enhance international peace and security throughout the world and stresses the importance of the universal and effectively verifiable CTBT as a significant instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Lithuania urges all states, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty without delay.

Thank you.