

**Statement of the Executive Secretary of the  
Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive  
Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization  
Sarajevo, September 2004**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) is pleased to assist the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina in holding a national seminar on the CTBT. We stand ready to provide further assistance if necessary to facilitate the ratification process.

1. The treaty, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September 1996, prohibits all nuclear test explosions in all environments. The CTBT is the culmination of almost four decades of international endeavours to ban nuclear test explosions and is regarded as an important international legal instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It is mentioned as one of the 25 most important treaties to be achieved in the UN Millennium Declaration.

2. As a primary obligation “Each State Party undertakes not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion, and to prohibit and prevent any such nuclear explosion at any place under its jurisdiction or control.” The ban includes all environments and does not set a threshold for testing. The Treaty’s primary objective is “to contribute effectively to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects” and “to the process of nuclear disarmament”. But it also adds to the scientific and technical advancement of member States.

3. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) was established on 19 November 1996 by a resolution adopted by the Meeting of States Signatories at the United Nations in New York, to prepare for the Treaty’s entry into force. Commission activities are aimed at establishment of the global verification regime to monitor compliance with the comprehensive ban on all nuclear test explosions. The Commission also promotes Treaty signature and ratification for the early entry into force of the CTBT.

4. Since its adoption in September 1996, the Treaty is increasingly becoming universal in its status. At present, there are 172 signatories and 115 States, which have deposited their instruments of ratification with the UN Secretary-General. The ratifiers include 32 of the 44 States whose ratification is required for the Treaty's enter into force. Out of the 22 States of the Eastern Europe region, all States have signed and 19 have ratified. Ratification by Bosnia and Herzegovina is of importance for the universality of the Treaty, and will be appreciated as a contribution to peace and security of Europe as well as the whole international community.

5. There are strong indications that in the course of 2004 and beyond, there will be more signatures and ratifications of the Treaty. Of particular importance among these, are those of the remaining 12 States whose ratification is needed for the Treaty's entry into force. Most outstanding among these is the United States of America. Although the US has not ratified, they greatly contribute to the work of the Organization, through their technical and financial support of a substantial part of our activities.

6. Equally important, is the anticipated ratification by China, in a not too distant future. Under such conditions, there are greater hopes for ratification by North Korea, India, and Pakistan. India and Pakistan have not carried out any further nuclear tests since their tests in 1998. Moreover, they have since made it very clear that they will not stand in the way of the Treaty's entry into force. There are indications that North Korea will behave in a similar manner.

7. The 2003 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in Vienna, in September 2003, was successfully concluded with the adoption of a Final Declaration that stressed the importance of a universal and effectively verifiable comprehensive Treaty as a major instrument in all aspects of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Mechanisms were also put in place for especial continuing diplomatic efforts for the promotion of the entry into force of the Treaty. Another conference of this kind is planned for 2005.

8. The Commission and its Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) based in Vienna, now in the eighth year of their challenging existence, are continuing actively in preparing the effective implementation of the CTBT. The CTBT provides for the establishment of a unique global verification regime that consists of an International Monitoring System (IMS), a consultation and clarification process, on-site inspections (OSIs) and confidence building measures (CBMs). Details on legal as well as technical questions will be given by my colleagues. I wish you an interesting afternoon.

Thank you