FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST COMMITTEE

Draft resolution L.4/Rev.1

"Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty"

Support statement
By
H.E. Ambassador Erling Harild Nielsen
on behalf of the European Union

NEW YORK
October 18, 2002

Check against delivery
Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased on behalf of the European Union to speak on draft resolution L.4/Rev.1 entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty". The countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey as well as the EFTA countries of the European Economic Area, Iceland and Norway align themselves with this statement.

During the general debate on the first day of this year's session of the First Committee, I had the opportunity as President of the EU to express the views of the EU regarding the CTBT: "The importance and urgency of continuing the signing and ratification process of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in order to enable its entry into force as soon as possible as was underlined in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference. The Union wishes to reiterate that it spares no efforts in promoting the earliest entry into force of the Treaty and universal accession to it. It is with this in mind that the Union expresses its full support for the rapid establishment and for the operation of the verification regime. To ensure that the resolve of the international community does not weaken, it calls on all those States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT, without delay and without conditions, in particular those States whose ratification is required for the Treaty to enter into force".

This, Mr. Chairman, is the reason why the EU is in full support of draft resolution L.4/Rev.1 which has been co-sponsored by all EU Member States.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.