Joint Statement
by
H.E. Ambassador Nils Daag
on behalf of Mexico and Sweden
to the First Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Vienna, 30 April-11 May 2012
Cluster One

Mr. Chair,

Firstly, allow me to join all those that have congratulated you on your assumption as Chair for this first Session of the Preparatory Committee of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in Vienna. You can rest assured of our delegations' support of your efforts in guiding our work.

I speak on behalf of Mexico as well as of my own country, Sweden, in both our countries' current capacities as Coordinators of the Article XIV process for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. As such, we wish to restate the significance of the CTBT for the NPT as well as for all global efforts to uphold and strengthen nonproliferation and achieving nuclear disarmament, thereby contributing to international and regional security.

Efforts by the international community to put in place a ban on nuclear testing are closely interlinked to the NPT. As is known, the preamble of the NPT recalls "the determination expressed ...to seek to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all...", already at this point reflecting the need to expand the partial test ban treaty to include all nuclear test explosions, also underground.

Commitment to the realization of the CTBT was an integral part of the 1995 agreement by the States parties to the NPT allowing the indefinite extension of the Treaty. The early entry into force of the CTBT was recognized at the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT as a one of the 13 practical steps for achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. This call has also been reaffirmed repeatedly as being of central importance by the UN General Assembly, over the years.

Some progress has been made lately towards the entry-into-force of the CTBT, most recently through the ratification by Indonesia – the first Annex 2 State to ratify since 2008. We further welcome the recent ratifications of the Central African Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago and the signature of Niue. Efforts by all remaining states in this regard, specially by those whose ratification is needed for the Treaty to enter into force, are crucial and should be lauded. It is indeed to be welcomed that the CTBT has achieved near universal adherence with signature by 183 States and ratification by 157 States as of today.
Nevertheless, entry-into-force of the CTBT remains an important outstanding issue where further progress is urgently required. The Treaty is a core element of the international non-proliferation and disarmament regime — raising the threshold for the acquisition of nuclear weapons, preventing a qualitative arms race and reducing the reliance on nuclear weapons in national security strategies. The entry into force of the Treaty would also strengthen confidence in the international security system through the establishment of an effective verification mechanism. In this regard, all CTBT undertakings contained in the 2010 Action Plan should be duly fulfilled.

Mr. Chair,

On 23 September last year our respective Foreign ministers assumed the Co-Presidency of the 7th Article XIV Conference facilitating the entry into force of the CTBT. Therefore, advocacy of the CTBT is of particular importance on our political agendas, adding to our longstanding support for the Treaty. In a joint op-ed article last December commending Indonesia’s parliamentary endorsement of the CTBT, we outlined some of our CTBT priorities and pledged to work for achieving further action towards entry into force. Among other things, we have committed ourselves to addressing the issue of the entry into force of the CTBT vigorously, including at high political levels, making use of as many available opportunities as possible, be it in bilateral, regional, or international settings.

Our countries have currently been active in different ways to advance this aim. For instance, Mexico is the co-author of the Resolution on the CTBT presented annually to the General Assembly, and has recently devoted itself to a global campaign on the entry into force of the CTBT, working together with the NPDI.

Sweden, for its part, has primarily focused on a regional approach, currently engaging with Indonesia and other Southeast Asian partners in promoting complete adherence to the treaty by encouraging all remaining states in that region to conclude their CTBT ratification processes.

We see strong potential benefits with the CTBT also regarding other efforts towards regionally banning nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. A case in point is the ongoing process of setting the stage for the international conference on the establishment of a WMD free zone in the Middle East. In our minds, CTBT ratification by remaining states in the prospective zonal area would constitute one of the most crucial single confidence building actions possible.

In a global perspective action is of course required by all by remaining eight Annex 2 states.

In our view the present situation for the CTBT, albeit functioning as a strong political imperative against testing, backed up by national test moratoria, cannot replace a CTBT firmly in place under international law. As we see it, bringing the CTBT into force would entail a security benefit for any individual country and even more so for the international community as a whole. Collective security would be immensely strengthened were this to happen, surely spilling over positively to other disarmament and nonproliferation areas and beyond.
Mr. Chair

Nuclear testing undermines global security and cannot be accepted. The international community has been firm in its response to the three countries that have remained outside and have performed nuclear explosive tests since the CTBT was concluded. Any further nuclear test must be considered an anomaly, a breach against a world order supported by a vast majority, an unwelcome residual of a time we do not want to revisit.

Further progress on CTBT adherence, in particular as regards ratifications by remaining nuclear weapons states, would contribute significantly to a positive outcome of the 2015 Review Conference of the NPT. The message is clear. Progress on CTBT will surely help lending progress to the NPT. We stand ready to contribute. The NPT parties have already committed to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and, to that end, we need to make the world free of nuclear tests, paving the way for a safer and better world.

Thank you for your attention.