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Finland's EU Presidency

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Statement by
Ambassador Kari Kahiluoto, Finland,
on behalf of the European Union

On the draft resolution on
"Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty "

New York, 26 October 2006

Madam Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union on draft resolution L. 48 entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty". The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and align themselves with this declaration.

Madam Chair,

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is an essential part of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and the EU attaches the utmost importance to the entry into force of the CTBT at the earliest possible date. The EU continues to call on States, particularly Annex 2 States, to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay and without conditions. The 10th anniversary of the adoption of the CTBT by the UNGA this year reminds us all of the need to redouble our efforts to complete the outstanding ratifications that are required for the entry into force of the Treaty. The EU believes that a legally binding prohibition of nuclear weapon test explosions and all other nuclear explosions as well as a credible verification regime, are vital. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, we urge all States to abide by a moratorium and to refrain from any actions which are contrary to the obligations and provisions of the Treaty.

Madam Chair,

The EU has strongly condemned the test of a nuclear explosive device by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 9 October 2006. This test, carried out in disregard of appeals from the international community, poses a danger to regional stability and represents a clear threat to international peace and security. The EU will fully implement the provisions of all relevant UNSC resolutions and notably of resolutions 1718(2006) and 1695(2006).

The EU strongly urges the DPRK, in compliance with UNSC resolutions 1718 and 1695, to return immediately to the Six-Party Talks, to work towards expeditious implementation of the Joint Statement of September 2005, in particular to verifiably abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, and to comply with its obligations under the NPT, which include submitting all its nuclear activities to IAEA verification. The

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

EU further calls on the DPRK to sign and ratify the CTBT, to refrain from conducting any further nuclear test or missile launch, and to re-establish its commitments to a moratorium on missile launching.

The DPRK's actions add to the risks of proliferation worldwide. The EU calls for redoubling of efforts to strengthen all aspects of the international system against proliferation of WMD.

Madam Chair, there is an urgent need for the CTBT to finally enter into force. The EU fully supports the draft resolution under consideration. It has been co-sponsored by all EU member states.

Thank you.