

## **Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Resolution (L.55)**

Explanation of vote by

Dr. Rodica Radian Gordon

Director of Arms Control Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Chairperson,

Recent years have indicated the severity of the nuclear proliferation challenges faced by the world today. They have been demonstrated, inter alia, by the numerous non-compliance cases the majority of which occurred in the Middle East. Today's challenges emphasize the importance of the CTBT and the possible future contribution of this treaty to security and stability in the nuclear sphere.

Israel's signature of the CTBT in September 1996 reflects its long standing policy to bring itself closer, wherever possible, to international norms on nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation.

Additional obligations undertaken recently by Israel which are aimed at promoting peace and security in relevant spheres, include a comprehensive reform of Israel's export control legislation in order to bring it in line with the highest standards of export control as set by the International Suppliers Regimes, support of IAEA Codes of Conduct on the Security of Radioactive Sources and the Safety of Research Reactors and recently by joining the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since the establishment of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBT in November 1996, Israel has participated actively in the development of all elements of the CTBT verification regime. In addition, Israel has been paying continuously all its dues to the CTBTO and, transfers data from its certified seismic stations to the IDC and participates in all training, workshops and exercise activities related to the OSI.

Israel appreciates the significant progress made in the development of the CTBT verification regime, whose completion is a prerequisite to Entry into Force of the Treaty. However completion of the verification regime still requires additional efforts. Major steps required include the continues build up of the IMS stations [and the conduct of future field exercises such as the OSI Integrated Field Exercise 08 held in Kazakhstan recently.

It is Israel view that the Treaty's verification regime should be robust to detect non compliance with its basic obligations, be immune to abuse and at the same time allow each state signatory to protect its national security interests. For Israel, completion of the verification regime constitutes a major consideration for ratification.

In addition, Israel's status in the Policy Making Organs of the Treaty, including those connected to the geographical region of the Middle East and South Asia (MESA) and in the executive council of the future CTBTO, must be addressed. Sovereign equality must be ensured.

Israel's third consideration is connected to the regional situation and the importance Israel attaches to the adherence to and compliance with the Treaty by states in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairperson,

Pending EIF we believe that the CTBT should be advanced further by states taking upon themselves the following commitments and activities:

- Maintaining the commitment not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion in line with the Treaty's basic obligations.
- Completion, as soon as possible, of the CTBT's verification regime.
- Operate, maintain and test the IMS and IDC, prior to EIF, in order to gain experience and to provide early detection capabilities. In addition, where coverage gaps of IMS stations exist, take temporary measures to fill those gaps, such as operation of auxiliary seismic stations as primary ones until all primary stations are effectively functioning and transferring data.
- Maintain the technical and a-political nature of the Preparatory Commission's work and respect its Rules and Procedures.
- Use the IMS and IDC capabilities without detracting from their primary objectives as the verification instruments of the Treaty, to support Tsunami warning systems in order to alert threatened populations in a timely manner and save human lives.

Mr. Chairperson,

As it has done in previous years, Israel continues to vote in favor of the resolution pertaining the CTBT. Our position stems from the importance Israel attaches to the objectives of the CTBT.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson