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**Title : STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALLIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) STATE SIGNATORIES AND RATIFIERS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT) AT THE CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CTBT**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) State Signatories and Ratifiers to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

2. Let me first of all, congratulate you on your election as President of the Conference. I am confident that with your able leadership, skill and guidance, the Conference will reach a fruitful conclusion. You can be assured that NAM will give its full support and co-operation in facilitating your task as President.

3. I would also like to congratulate Ambassador Deborah Stokes, Permanent Representative of Australia in Vienna for the excellent and patient manner in which she has conducted the informal consultations on the draft Final Declaration of the Conference. Our appreciation also goes to the Secretariat for preparing the necessary documents.

4. The Movement has taken several principled positions on the issues of disarmament and international security. In this regard, it is pertinent for me to highlight that NAM expressed its strong concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and unilaterally imposed prescriptions and in this context, strongly underlined and affirmed that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the UN Charter, provided the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues.

5. In the context of the CTBT, NAM would like to reiterate its long standing and principled position for the total elimination of all nuclear testing. In this regard, NAM reaffirms its support for the objectives of the Treaty, which is intended to enforce a comprehensive ban on all nuclear test explosions and to stop the qualitative development of nuclear weapons. NAM strongly believes that universal adherence to the CTBT, including by the five nuclear weapon States, should contribute towards the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore towards the enhancement of international peace and security. NAM believes that if the objectives of the CTBT were to be fully realised, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the five nuclear-weapon States, to nuclear

disarmament, is essential. We hope that further progress towards the entry into force of the Treaty could be made as a result of this Conference.

6. NAM is pleased to note that since the opening for signature of the CTBT in New York nine years ago on 24 September 1996, 176 States have signed the Treaty, and 125 States have ratified it. The number of signatures and ratifications indicate the acceptance of the Treaty, which is aimed at banning forever all forms of nuclear test explosions, by the international community. NAM takes note that only 33 out of 44 States listed in Annex 2 of the CTBT, whose ratifications are required for the entry into force of the Treaty have done so. In this regard, NAM, while calling on all those States whose ratifications are required for entry into force of the Treaty and who are in a position to do so to ratify it, urges, in particular the two nuclear weapon States, to ratify the Treaty without delay. NAM also urges those States in the Annex 2, which have not even signed the Treaty, to sign and ratify it without delay.

7. NAM places special emphasis on the role of the nuclear weapon States because NAM believes that they have a special responsibility to see the early entry into force of the Treaty on account of their position. NAM is also of the view that early ratification of the Treaty by the two nuclear-weapon States would pave the way and encourage the remaining countries listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty, especially the three States with nuclear capabilities, which have not even signed the Treaty, to eventually sign and ratify the Treaty. We are therefore, concerned and disappointed that one nuclear weapon State has taken the position not to proceed with the ratification of the Treaty. We hope that it would reconsider its position.

8. NAM commends the five nuclear-weapon States for observing the moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions since the Treaty's opening for signature. We strongly feel that it is of prime importance for the nuclear-weapon States to adhere to this voluntary moratorium pending entry into force of the Treaty. However, NAM would like to emphasise that this voluntary moratorium does not, in any way, substitute the ratification of the Treaty leading to the entry into force of the Treaty.

9. NAM would also like to recall the undertakings given by the nuclear-weapon States at the time of the negotiation of the CTBT to the fact that the Treaty would halt both vertical and horizontal proliferation, thereby preventing the appearance of new types of nuclear charges, as well as nuclear weapons based on new physical principles. The nuclear-weapon States stated at that time that the only steps that would continue would be to maintain the safety and reliability of the remaining or existing weapons, which would not involve nuclear explosions. In this regard, we urge these States to continue to refrain from conducting any nuclear test in all forms for the development or further improvement of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

10. NAM is deeply disappointed that the 2005 NPT Review Conference held in New York failed to reach any substantive conclusion. Nevertheless, NAM remains fully committed to its obligations under the NPT and the agreements reached at both the 1995 and 2000 NPT Review Conferences. NAM, in this regard, calls upon the five nuclear-weapon States to honour their commitments to the full implementation of the 13 practical steps, as contained in the 2000 NPT Review Conference Final Document for systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI of the NPT and paragraphs 3 and 4 (c) of the 1995 decisions on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

11. In the context of the Nuclear Posture Review that has been undertaken by a nuclear weapon State, NAM is deeply concerned that the developments of new types of nuclear weapons are being considered. NAM is of the view that the development of new types of nuclear weapons, is in contravention not only with the undertakings provided by the nuclear-weapon States at the time of the conclusion of the CTBT, but also with the Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Mr. President,

12. NAM would like to record its appreciation to the former Executive Secretary, Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann for the excellent work he had done in leading the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS). NAM wishes him all the best. NAM would also like to congratulate and warmly welcome the new Executive Secretary, Ambassador Tibor Toth. NAM is confident that Ambassador Toth will continue with the tradition of leading the PTS with a high degree of professionalism.

13. NAM would like to commend the continuing efforts of the Provisional Technical Secretariat to establish a global verification regime to ensure that it is capable of detecting nuclear test explosions all over the world at the entry into force of the CTBT. In this regard, NAM regrets that one nuclear weapon State continues to reject one of the major elements of the verification regime and urges the State to reconsider its position. NAM also calls on all States to continue to support the development of all elements of the verification regime because NAM believes that they are equal in their importance.

14. NAM also believes that besides its primary functions, the verification system could also bring scientific and civil benefits in conformity with the Treaty including tsunami warning systems. In this regard, it welcomes the decision taken by the Preparatory Commission to task the PTS to explore the possible contribution of the PTS to tsunami early warning system.

15. Finally, let me conclude by reaffirming the NAM's full support for the objectives of the CTBT. We firmly believe that the early entry into force of the Treaty would pave the way towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons which would make this world a safer place.

I thank you Mr. President.