

Remarks

by

Sergio Duarte

High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

United Nations



Remarks at Mini Treaty Event marking the ratification
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by
the Central African Republic and Trinidad and Tobago

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Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I very much welcome the opportunity to speak at this ceremony marking the ratification of the Comprehensive-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the Central African Republic and Trinidad and Tobago.

I would like to commend the governments of the Central African Republic and Trinidad and Tobago for this important step that shows not only their commitment, but also the contribution that small countries can bring to advancing the cause of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament by promoting the entry into force of the CTBT and its universalization.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has repeatedly voiced his determination to revitalize multilateral efforts in both disarmament and non-proliferation. In his five-point proposal, the Secretary-General urged new efforts to achieve an early entry into force of the CTBT, underscoring the significance of this key instrument which he called “a fundamental building block for a world free of nuclear weapons.”

With over 180 States having signed and over 150 States having ratified the treaty, we see that global support for the CTBT is stronger and stronger. Yet, the ratifications of nine States listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty are still required.

In this regard, I welcome the announcement by the Foreign Minister of Indonesia on 3 May, that his country is initiating the ratification process – Indonesia’s ratification will provide a much needed momentum.

I echo the Secretary-General who has called on those states that have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT to join the international consensus to end nuclear testing. I hope that actions such as those taken today by the Governments of the Central African Republic and Trinidad and Tobago will inspire further ratifications.

Thank you.