

**Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the  
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty New York, 21-  
23 September 2005**

Agenda Item 9;

**Progress report on cooperation to facilitate the entry into force of the  
Treaty; Statement by Ambassador Tom Griinberg, Finland**

Mr President,

May I first congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of this Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

This is the fourth Art XIV meeting. As you may know Finland had the privilege to serve as the chairman of the third Conference in 2003 and coordinator for the entry into force activities thereafter until last spring when Australia took over after us.

It is in the capacity as outgoing coordinator I now have the honour to present a "Progress report on cooperation to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty".

In the Final Declaration adopted by consensus at the Conference in 2003, the participating States stressed the importance of prompt signature and ratification by those whose ratification was needed for its entry into force but who had not yet ratified.

In 2003 the number of those countries was 12. Today the number is still 11, though at lot has been done in order to get those listed in the annex II to ratify the Treaty.

A positive development can however bee noted in the overall number of signatures and ratifications.

Two years ago the total number of States that had signed the Treaty was 168 today the number has risen to 176. This shows that the Treaty is today perceived as an instrument of major importance in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. With such a large number of signatures one could almost speak of the test ban becoming *jus cogens* - customary law.

During the same period - that is during the last two years - the number of ratifications has risen from 104 in 2003 to 125 today, but as I already mentioned eleven of those 44 States who are listed in Annex II have not yet ratified. This is of course regrettable, bearing in mind that during the conference it was stated that "the entry into force is as urgent today as when the Treaty was negotiated".

Despite the fact that the Treaty has not entered into force, one can say that its fundamental objective has been attained in so far as all States have continued to refrain from nuclear explosions. The conference's call on all States to continue their moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions has not been made in vain.

When adopting the Final Declaration in 2003 the Conference also adopted a list of concrete measures to be taken to promote the early entry into force of the Treaty.

The first of these, altogether 12 measures, was to elect Finland to serve as the coordinator "to promote cooperation through informal consultations with all interested countries, aimed at promoting further signatures and ratifications". This decision was based on an established practise from the previous Article XIV Conferences to elect the country that had served as the chairman as coordinator.

The second measure that I would like to mention, because it has proved to be of vital importance, was to appoint a Special Representative to assist the coordinating State in the performance of its function in promoting the entry into force.

As the Special Representative (to assist the coordinating State), the parties elected Ambassador Jaap Ramaker from Netherlands who already when the Treaty was negotiated played an important role as the chairman of the negotiations in Geneva.

The task of the Special Representative was through personal visits to try to focus the attention of those countries that had not yet ratified the Treaty to do so. During his visits he has provided background information on the significance of the Treaty and its role and function in the wider context of nuclear arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. So far he has especially focused his attention on those countries listed in Annex 2.

As ambassador Ramaker will give his own account of the activities immediately after my presentation, I will refrain from going into further details.

At the conference in 2003 it was further decided to "establish a contact list of countries among ratifiers which volunteer to assist the coordinator in various regions, in promoting activities enhancing the entry into force of the Treaty".

As such regional volunteers the following countries were chosen;

For Africa - South Africa

For Easter Europe - Ukraine

For Latin America - Chile and Venezuela

For North America and Western Europe - Austria, Canada and Spain

For South East Asia and Pacific - Japan, Korea and Philippines

The role of these "regional coordinators" has been most encouraging. Their activities have made it possible to keep the question of ratification on the agenda of the various regional summits and other high level political meetings and thus raise the awareness of the importance of the Treaty.

The role of the "regional coordinators" however deserves further attention. I believe there is a good potential for the regional coordinators to play an even greater role in the future.

The secretariat has according to the recommendation in the measures part ( k) acted as "a focal point" and collected information about activities undertaken by ratifiers and signatories in promoting the entry into force of the Treaty. The compilation that the PTS produced of the various activities that countries have undertaken is an impressive and long list.

But one has to admit that many more activities would certainly have taken place had there been a guaranteed financing for them. This prompts me to draw your attention to a proposal that, though included in the final declaration in 2003, was not implemented as all delegations were not prepared to concur with the proposal. In paragraph f of the measures part it was agreed "that ratifying States will consider establishing a trust fund, financed through voluntary contributions, to support an outreach programme for promoting the Treaty".

Of course the Provisional Treaty Secretariat (PTS) has continued with its international cooperation activities and has also continued to organize seminars for experts in the legal and technical fields as recommended in the final declaration and as the Executive Secretary just told us.

In the Final declaration from the last meeting cooperation with civil society and the NGOs was encouraged. To get the NGOs even more involved in raising awareness of and support for the Treaty and its objectives, is an area where I think more could and should be done.

But as I mentioned earlier the Special Representative Ambassador Ramaker who played an important role in the promotional activities is going to give his own account of what he has done. With your permission Mr Chairman I would therefore like to give the floor to him but before doing so may I as coordinator thank all those who during the past two years have actively tried to promote the entry into force of the Treaty.

Though the Treaty has not yet entered into force I am confident that it will. There is no need to abandon the hope but to continue to work to this end.