

September 23, 2011 | UN Headquarters, NY, NY



On Friday, September 23, states parties to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) came together on the fringes of the high-level meetings of the 66th session of the General Assembly to discuss how to facilitate the entry into force of the CTBT. There have been several such conferences since 1999, when states parties came together for the first time under the treaty's Article XIV provisions for adoption and ratification. States have met in alternating calendar years since the inaugural Article XIV conference. Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Tibor Toth, and the Secretary-General addressed the conference.

There was consensus among states at this year's conference that the entry into force of the CTBT is a critical step for international peace and security and should be made a priority. There was also much praise for the CTBTO and the International Monitoring System (IMS) that is nearly complete and required to be so before full entry into force. The vast majority of states specifically called on the nine remaining 'Annex 2' states to ratify the treaty such that it can enter fully into force. These nine states are China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, and the United States.

The Foreign Minister of Mexico, Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, and Carl Bildt, Foreign Minister of Sweden, served as co-chairs for the conference. The outgoing-chair, Morocco, explained that their goal had been, along with co-chair France, to make the CTBT 'more attractive for other states.' Minister Espinosa set the tone for the remainder of the conference and was clear in her country's goal to eliminate nuclear testing as a step towards nuclear disarmament by referring to 'large segments of impoverished people who are ignored so that money can spent on weapons that threaten the planet.' Another poignant remark came from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon who offered to visit any of the nine states who have not yet ratified the CTBT to personally clear up any misconceptions, or concerns, and repeated the call for full entry into force by 2012. The states parties adopted unanimously an outcome document.

GAPW affirms that the full entry into force of the CTBT is a necessary step towards nuclear disarmament. Such a legally-binding international instrument would put a definitive end to nuclear weapons testing and would certainly contribute to halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons by making it harder for states that do not have them to acquire them as well as make it more difficult for states that do have them to improve their weapon systems.

For more information on the 2011 Article XIV Conference, please click [here](#).

For the Secretary-General's remarks, please click [here](#).

The final declaration adopted by states is available [here](#).

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