

**Conference on Facilitating the Entry
Into Force of the Comprehensive
Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty**
22 September 2005, New York

**Statement by
His Excellency Sergei MARTYNOV
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Belarus**

Mr. Chairman,

Please allow me on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Belarus to congratulate you upon the election to the post of the Chairman and express our gratitude to the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) for highly valuable work conducted while preparing and arranging this Conference.

Taking this opportunity I would also like to congratulate the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission Mr. Tibor Tott upon his official assuming the office and express my sincere thanks to Mr. Volfgang Hoffmann for his longstanding productive work on this high post.

Mr. Chairman,

We note with satisfaction the growing number of states, which have already signed and ratified the CTBT.

On the other hand, we feel profound disappointment that nine years appeared to be not enough to ensure the entry into force of an important Treaty aimed at strengthening nuclear non-proliferation regime and contribute to nuclear disarmament.

From our point of view, the delay with the coming into force of the Treaty is further eroding the foundations of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. **The moratorium for tests of nuclear explosive devices** is definitely a positive development, but it **cannot serve as an adequate alternative to a legally binding international instrument.**

We unconditionally support the appeal contained in the Final Declaration of the Conference to urge all states to sign and ratify the Treaty. Apparently, the crucial moment is coming, when all states of the world without any exceptions must **demonstrate their political will and prevent further undermining of the foundations of international nuclear non-proliferation regime.**

I would like to point out that the Republic of Belarus opted for non-nuclear weapons status from the very days of its independence and remained an active

and consistent adherent to the processes of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. **We possessed nuclear weapons, voluntarily surrendered them** and became a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START), Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF). The Republic of Belarus was among the first states to sign CTBT in 1996 and ratified it in 2000. Belarus abide the letter and the spirit of the Treaty and strictly implement it.

Mr. Chairman,

Belarus is indeed interested in the strengthening of the international regime of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, in increasing the role of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and in building mutual confidence. Three days ago the President of the Republic of Belarus decided to sign the **Additional Protocol** to the Agreement between Belarus and IAEA on providing guarantees in connection with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Protocol empowers IAEA to verify that Belarus **does not possess undeclared nuclear materials, does not use declared nuclear materials for military purposes and does not carry out secret nuclear programs.**

Realizing the serious threat of possible use of nuclear energy by terrorists and necessity to take urgent collective actions by international community Belarus **has signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism** which is aimed to strengthen the foundations of international cooperation for combating this evil.

Mr. Chairman,

Belarus has suffered from the most devastating man-caused catastrophe on the planet – explosion of a reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. As a result our country for twenty years lives under the conditions of the contamination of a considerable part of the Belarusian territory. In this regard I would like to emphasize the importance of mentioning in the Final Declaration of the possibility of the **medical, scientific and research use of the technologies and data, acquired as a by-product of functioning of the CTBT verification system.**

I am convinced that **widening of the use of the data of the CTBT verification system**, including early disaster warning, would not undermine the primary goal of the Treaty, but on the contrary would promote broader understanding, **trust and respect to the CTBT.**

Mr. Chairman,

Current year abounds in anniversaries. The 60th anniversary of atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the 35th anniversary of the coming into force of NPT, reminds us of the persistent presence of nuclear threat and of the necessity of further collective efforts to minimise this threat. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty is the major foundation of such collective efforts. In this regard I **call upon all States to sign and ratify the CTBT as soon as possible.**