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## **S T A T E M E N T**

**by the Head of the Delegation of the Russian Federation Andrey I. Denisov  
at the Fourth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force  
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

22 September 2005

Distinguished Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to welcome you in the capacity of President of our forum. You can fully count on our constructive interaction on all aspects of the work of this Conference.

Mr. President,

The world community has gone a long way to achieve the ban on nuclear testing. The road from the Moscow 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty took almost thirty five years. However, it shall not mean that the same long way is needed for the CTBT to enter into force.

Increased efforts of the world community and stronger international cooperation in combating the new challenges including such a serious threat as

international terrorism, should not be detrimental to the non-proliferation issues. We are convinced that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is one of the most important elements of the international security system and of the containment of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, the CTBT will allow to set a safe barrier to the development and modernization of the nuclear weapons – the most destructive weapons of modern times.

We note with satisfaction that so far 176 states have signed and 125 of them have ratified the CTBT. We welcome such a responsible approach of these states.

At the same time, the prospects of the entry into force of this most important Treaty can not but raise our concern. We hope that the remaining 11 states from the "list of 44" will take steps required to join the Treaty as soon as possible since their position will determine the entry of the CTBT into force.

Mr. President,

Having ratified the CTBT already five years ago, Russia continues to actively participate in the joint efforts aimed at ensuring an earliest entry into force of the Treaty in accordance with the provisions of its Article XIV. It is known that our country was a co-sponsor of the Joint Statements on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty adopted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs – the "CTBT friends" - at the 57th and 59th sessions of the UN General Assembly, as well as of the First Committee resolutions of the previous General Assembly sessions in support of the Treaty. We also take an active part in practical implementation of the Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the CTBT adopted by the previous Conference in 2003.

We wish to emphasize once again the need for all the signatory States to implement their key obligations under the Treaty, not to violate spirit and letter of the CTBT prior to its entry into force and to observe the moratorium on nuclear tests. Russia intends to stick to this position further on, provided the other nuclear powers

apply the same approach. At the same time we note once again that we consider the voluntary maintaining of the moratorium on nuclear tests as an important measure that, however, can not substitute for an even more vital task — to ensure that CTBT enters into force.

Russia is satisfied in general with the progress and pace of activities aimed at establishing all the elements of international mechanism to control the compliance with the Treaty which is the main task of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission. We are confident that the technical level of such verification mechanism within the framework of the Treaty along with modern national instruments of monitoring will make it impossible to conceal any attempts to violate the Treaty by the time of its entry into force. At the same time, we can not accept arguments of those who delay the CTBT ratification referring to insufficient readiness of the verification regime and its allegedly low effectiveness or any other factors.

Mr. President,

Our delegation is ready to support the renewed plan of actions of the international community to facilitate the entry into force of the CTBT contained in the draft Final Declaration of the Conference and further on to participate actively in its practical implementation. We would also like to support the suggestion that the Special Representative distinguished Ambassador J.Ramaker will continue to perform his functions and express him our sincere gratitude for the work done so far.

In conclusion, we once again call upon those states that have not signed or ratified the Treaty and, primarily, those whose accession is required for its entry into force, to do so without delay or any preconditions.

Thank you, Mr. President.