

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة
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نيويورك

Statement

by

The Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Before

**The Conference on Facilitating the Entry into
Force
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban
Treaty (CTBT).**

New York, September 23, 2011

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Madam Co-President,
Mr. Co-President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Mexico and Sweden for assuming the co-presidency of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and to express appreciation to Morocco and France at the end of their joint term. I would also like to thank the UN Secretary-General for his tireless efforts in supporting and promoting the agenda of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Distinguished Co-President,

Egypt has played a prominent role in negotiating the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and was amongst the first countries that signed the treaty in 1996. Egypt also participates in its activities stemming from the fact that the purpose and objective of the CTBT, as stipulated in its preamble, are to contribute effectively to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to the process of nuclear disarmament, thus complementing the legal regime of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

In this context, Egypt has cooperated with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Organization (CTBTO), and looks forward to further cooperation in this regard, especially in the areas of training and rehabilitation, in a manner that realizes Egypt's interests and the interests of the Middle East on the one hand, and enhances the effectiveness of the Treaty on the other.

In this context, I would like to underline that Egypt seeks to establish a comprehensive legal regime in the Middle East that would prohibit the development and possession of nuclear weapons, one which is applicable to all the countries of the region without exception. The only way to realize this is - in our view and in the view of the vast majority of States - by achieving the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, through the adherence to the NPT by the only country in our region that has not yet acceded to it, and which has refrained so far from subjecting its nuclear installations to the comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). On this premise, Egypt believes that the current priority is the faithful implementation of the Plan of Action as adopted at the last Review Conference of the NPT regarding the

implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, which endorsed that The Secretary-General of the United Nations convenes a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

I do not hide here the concern of Egypt that more than a year has elapsed since the adoption of the action plan for the Middle East, without achieving any concrete results regarding the selection of the facilitator for the conference or the host country. This delay will have a negative impact on achieving the objective that we all share which is realizing a world free of nuclear weapons, as well as having negative effects on the chances of the success of the CTBT. There is, hence, a responsibility to be borne by all parties to exert credible efforts and to prove their best intentions towards successfully convening the Conference in 2012 as scheduled. As stipulated for in the Action Plan, the CTBTO may contribute to the preparations of background documentation for the 2012 Conference, an opportunity which we hope will be best utilized by the Organization to enhance the opportunities of implementing the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, in a way that may also open the door to a new horizon for the CTBT in the region and in the worldwide.

Madam Co-President,
Mr. Co-President,

This conference aims at facilitating the entry into force of the CTBT through the completion of its ratification, which comes in sync with proposals to embark on comprehensive negotiations of a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty in the belief that this would facilitate reaching a world free of nuclear weapons. I would like to highlight, at this point, the conditionality of that any proposed treaty on such materials should include the stockpile of fissile material in accordance with the "Shannon mandate", and this should be coupled with additional unremitting, and concrete efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament with the view to concluding a treaty banning the possession of nuclear weapons. This being one of the main demands of the Non-Aligned Movement. This would enhance the chances of achieving the universality of the CTBT, in a way that serves our common international and regional interests. We need this holistic approach, which aims to achieve the objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation together, and realize peace and security for all without differentiation.

Thank you, Distinguished Co-Presidents