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# Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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### **The European Union and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty working paper**

1. The European Union strongly supports the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), an instrument that is crucial to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. By verifiably banning nuclear-weapon-test explosions by all countries without exception and in all their aspects, CTBT will help in constraining the development of new types of nuclear weapons and thus make a key contribution to international peace and security.

2. Twelve years after the CTBT's opening for signature, its entry into force is more than ever a matter of urgency; in addition, considering the evolving international security environment, its entry into force is all the more relevant. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and the risk of non-State actors gaining access to such weapons are a threat to the international community as a whole. The conviction of the European Union, as expressed in the "European Union strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction", is that these threats, which spare no country or no region, can best be countered through a multilateral approach. CTBT is one of the principal instruments for responding to those challenges. Its entry into force will strengthen the international security architecture which was drawn up on the basis of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

3. The European Union, all of whose Member States have ratified CTBT, attaches the utmost importance to the Treaty's universalization and earliest entry into force. This is, in fact, one of the concrete and realistic disarmament initiatives presented by the European Union at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly in the perspective of the 2010 Review Conference and endorsed in December 2008 by the Heads of State and Government of the 27 Member States of the European Union in the "Statement on strengthening international security".

4. The European Union welcomes the fact that adherence to CTBT is now virtually universal, with 180 States having signed it<sup>1</sup> and 148 having ratified it.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 180 as at 5 May 2009.

<sup>2</sup> 148 as at 5 May 2009.



The European Union calls on all States, in particular those listed in annex II to the Treaty, to sign and ratify CTBT unconditionally at the earliest opportunity.

5. Within the framework of the broader efforts of the three successive French, Czech and Swedish Presidencies of the European Union to foster the process of CTBT coming into force, the Foreign Minister of the European Union Presidencies, in February 2009, sent a letter to the remaining annex II countries whose ratification is necessary for entry into force, appealing to them to sign and/or ratify the Treaty without delay.

6. On 27 April 2009, the Council of the European Union, in its statement on CTBT, appealed to the ratifiers and signatories to the Treaty to demonstrate their support for it by their participation at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Article XIV Conference) in September 2009 in New York at the ministerial level or higher.

7. Even before its entry into force, CTBT has made it possible to set a global standard for banning nuclear testing. The nuclear test that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea claimed to have conducted in October 2006, which was condemned by the Security Council in its resolution 1718 (2006), recalled the importance of a universal, legally binding standard for banning nuclear testing and of the verification regime provided for by CTBT.

8. Action by the European Union in support of CTBT focuses on, on the one hand, promoting universal ratification of CTBT and, on the other hand, improving the efficiency and credibility of the CTBT's monitoring system and verification regime.

9. A new momentum in support of the Treaty's entry into force is being felt. In this connection, the European Union salutes the announcement by President Obama of the United States of America that the new American Administration will immediately and aggressively pursue ratification of CTBT by the United States. We hope that this will create a new momentum for its entry into force. The European Union is intent on confirming this momentum, notably ahead of the 2009 Article XIV Conference and the 2010 Review Conference. To that end, the European Union has adopted an action plan for the promotion and entry into force of CTBT that aims to address in particular, systematically and at a high level, the issue of ratification and, where necessary, of signature of CTBT, at European Union meetings with the relevant partners.

10. Pending the entry into force of CTBT, the European Union welcomes the moratorium on nuclear testing voluntarily observed by several States that have not yet ratified the Treaty and calls on all States to comply with a moratorium of this type and to refrain from conducting any action contrary to their obligations and objectives under the Treaty.

11. In addition, the European Union urges all States to dismantle all their nuclear testing facilities in a transparent process open to the international community.

12. The second aspect of European Union action in support of CTBT: the Union attaches the utmost importance to completing a credible and operational verification regime. A fully operational verification regime will provide the international community with independent and reliable means of ensuring compliance with the above-mentioned standard.

13. The European Union is involved in strengthening the verification regime and supports the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). The three joint actions adopted within the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy have enabled actions in such fields as training, strengthening verification regime performances and technical assistance for third countries. As regards the latter, concrete projects will, within the framework of the third joint action currently being implemented, benefit the largest possible number of countries among 28 African and Indian Ocean countries. The support of the European Union is also helping develop civil and scientific uses of international monitoring system technologies.

14. The support of the European Union has resulted in a significant financial commitment: the Union's contributions to CTBT have reached more than €5 million since 2006.

15. Establishing a credible and operational verification regime calls for full political and financial support from all States. The European Union calls on the States that have signed the Treaty to pay their full contributions to the CTBTO within the prescribed time limit and without setting conditions, in order to ensure the Preparatory Commission's financial stability and the consolidation of the verification regime.

16. The European Union welcomes the action conducted by Mr. Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of CTBTO, and by Mr. Jaap Ramaker, Special Representative of States having ratified CTBT, in charge of promoting the CTBT ratification process.

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