



VIENNA CHAPTER

STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA DURING THE 14TH SESSION OF THE CTBTO PREPCOM VIENNA, 24-27 APRIL 2001 DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR S. H. SHOUKRY SELIM, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to congratulate you on your Chairmanship of the 14th session of the preparatory commission of the CTBTO.

The Group commends the Secretariat for its ongoing efforts to fulfill its mandate, ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of the Preparatory Commission. I would also like to express our appreciation to Ambassador Hoffman, Executive Secretary of the PTS, for his comprehensive written and oral report as presented by the Secretary of the Preparatory Commission and would like to thank her for undertaking this task.

I would like to seize this opportunity to thank Mr. Sato, the Director of the Legal and External Relations Division for his presentation on the external and international cooperation activities of the PTS during the year 2000. These activities, mainly consisting of training courses and regional workshops, have indeed increased the awareness of the officials and public opinion in the signatory states of the various aspects related to the treaty and its objectives.

Mr. Chairman,

While taking note of the progress realized in establishing the global verification system, the Group is of the opinion that in line with this progress the Preparatory Commission should maintain an adequate and synchronized balance between budgetary implications and the prospects of the entry into force of the CTBT.

The Group believes that these perspectives should guide the PTS' work while preparing the 2002 program and budget project. Therefore, the Group would like to stress its view that no extra-budgetary burden should affect its members for the year 2002 budget.

On future preparations of the Programme and Budget the Group of 77 and China would like that following parameters be taken into consideration:

1. the capability of the PTS to maximize the utilization of the budget
2. actual prospects of the entry into force of the treaty
3. the payment capabilities of the Member States

With regard to this last element the Group is of the opinion that the PTS should cooperate with the Member States in order to identify possible solutions to impediments preventing them from making their payments, as recommended by the X Prep-Com in November 1999, including constitutional impediments.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion the Group reiterates its full support and appreciation for the objectives of the treaty and the efforts of the PTS towards achieving them.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.