



**STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA DURING THE 26TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP A, 4-8 OCTOBER 2004, DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR TAOUS FEROUKHI, PR OF ALGERIA**

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of States Signatories of the Group of 77 and China, I am pleased to see you chairing the 26th Session of Working Group A. I believe that under your chairmanship and guidance, discussions will lead to fruitful conclusions and I assure you of our full cooperation.

The Group would like to welcome the ratification of the Treaty by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the United Republic of Tanzania this would lead to a momentum for the early Entry Into Force of the Treaty.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

The Group wishes to thank the Executive Secretary, Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann, for his comprehensive written and oral reports and we would like to express our appreciation for the diligent efforts of the whole PTS in implementing the mandates of the Preparatory Commission for the establishment of the verification system at the entry into force of the Treaty.

We appreciate the activities undertaken by the PTS in implementation of Major Programmes 6 (Policy Making Organs) and 7 (Administration, Coordination and Support). We encourage the PTS to continue assisting in promoting cooperation among States Signatories to facilitate exchanges of technologies used in the verification of the Treaty. The Group believes that training courses of the PTS are elements of utmost importance for the dissemination of information about different technologies and it contributes to the universalization of the Treaty and should be further coordinated, well funded and widely represented.

The Group would like to express its views on the following issues, which will be considered during the present meeting of Working Group A.

**REVIEW OF THE FINAL DRAFT 2005 PROGRAMME AND BUDGET PROPOSALS AND CONSIDERATION OF RELATED DECISIONS**

We note with appreciation that, in preparing the revised programme and budget for 2005, the PTS has taken into consideration the principles which have been mentioned by the Group of 77 and China in previous statements, namely keeping the final figure of 2005 at the same level of 2004, with no programmatic increases over the 2004 funding level, or in PTS staffing levels observing the two assumptions of no programmatic or staff increase and accommodation of proposed changes by prioritization and reallocation of resources, decreasing the Capital Investment Fund (CIF) and absorbing the costs of the system-wide performance test and of the external review team in the regular budget.

The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for the information given on the enhanced security arrangements to enable the Vienna-based Organizations to comply with the Headquarters Minimum Operating Security Standards (H-MOSS) being proposed by UN Headquarters in New York. However, the Group believes that deciding upon the necessity of enhanced security arrangements is the prerogative of States Signatories of each organization taking into account a realistic and practical approach based on a real threat perception, local security situation and cost efficiency.

The Group would like to stress that the recommendations for enhancing security measures should be decided

by States Signatories after discussion in a transparent manner with the Secretariat and with due regard to cost efficiency.

In this regard, the Group is of the view that additional financial burdens as a result of these measures should not be imposed on States Signatories beyond their capacity to pay for them. The Group therefore welcomes any voluntary contribution and further consultations between the PTS and other organizations as well as UN Secretariat in New York. We expect that the States Signatories will be fully informed about any developments in this regard.

Mr Chairman,

#### **STATUS OF ON-SITE INSPECTION INSPECTORS AND INSPECTION ASSISTANTS**

The Group expresses satisfaction on the proposal to appoint Ms Maria Feliciano Ortigão, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brazil, as the OSI Focal Point, succeeding Mr Bernard Bourges, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of France. The Group of 77 and China looks forward to the mainstreaming of the discussions on this very important issue.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF A BIENNIAL BUDGET IN THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION**

The Group supports the recommendation of the Advisory Group contained in document CTBT/AG-23/1, paragraph 62, in the sense of deferring the introduction of a biennial budget until the introduction of the split currency system.

#### **POSSIBLE AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES**

The Group of 77 and China expresses strong support for the cooperation agreement between the CTBTO and the Association of Caribbean States.

Thank you Mr Chairman.