



## VIENNA CHAPTER

STATEMENT BY THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA DURING THE THIRY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR TAOUS FEROUKHI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA, 8-11 NOVEMBER 2010

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to express the sincere appreciation of the States Signatories of the Group of 77 and China in seeing you, Ambassador Xolisa Mfundiso Mabhongo, chair the 35th Session of the Preparatory Commission. The Group is confident that under your guidance our tasks will be concluded successfully and assures you of our willingness to support you in this endeavour.

I would like on behalf of the G77 and China to express our deep condolences to the Government and people of Indonesia for the losses caused by the recent natural disasters and assure them of our solidarity.

The Group of 77 and China notes that momentous progress has been made to date towards bringing the CTBT to its much desired universal status, with the total number of 153 ratifying and 182 signatory States.

The Group seizes this opportunity to thank the Executive Secretary Mr Tibor Tóth for his oral and written reports, and would like to express its views on substantive items of the agenda of the present session of the Preparatory Commission.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF WORKING GROUP A**

Mr Chairman,

As regards the report of the 38th Session of WGA, the Group takes note of all recommendations contained therein.

Regarding the modalities to finance repair of IMS facilities HA3 and IS14 in the Juan Fernández Islands as well as implementation of an IPSAS-compliant ERP platform the Group takes note of the recommendations on these two projects made by WGA at its 38th Session, and expresses its appreciation for the consultations on this issue that have been undertaken by the Chairman of WGA, Ambassador GUERREIRO of Brazil to arrive at consensus-based modalities for financing these projects.

### **AGENDA ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF WORKING GROUP B**

Mr Chairman,

The Group takes note of the report of the 35th Session of Working Group B as contained in CTBT/PC-35/WGB/1 and recommendations contained therein. The Group would like to emphasize the importance it attaches to the capacity building and training programme as a means to improve the ability of States Signatories to participate fully in the verification regime and also in PTS related activities. In this regard the Group appreciates the continuing efforts by the PTS in this field, and encourages the PTS to ensure the widest possible participation of developing countries in its capacity building and training programmes.

The Group reiterates the need to maintain an adequate balance in the prioritization and distribution of resources across the three main dimensions of the verification system, namely the IMS, the IDC and OSI. In this regard, the Group encourages the PTS to continue to seek efficiencies and to revisit the prioritization across Major Programmes in order to achieve this balance.

### **AGENDA ITEM 6: CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE ADVISORY GROUP**

Mr Chairman,

The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report of the 35th Session, to be introduced by the Chairperson of the Advisory Group, Mr Michael Weston, and all recommendations contained therein.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: CONSIDERATION OF THE FINAL DRAFT 2011 PROGRAMME AND BUDGET AND RELATED DECISIONS AND APPROPRIATE ACTION THEREON**

Mr Chairman,

The Group has expressed its general views regarding the draft Programme and Budget for 2011 during the previous meetings of the Policy Making Organs. On this occasion, the Group would like to reiterate once again the importance of the following four key elements that must be taken into account in all budgetary cycles of the PrepCom:

- The current well advanced status of the verification system;
- The mandate of the PrepCom on the provisional operation of the system;
- The actual prospects of entry into force of the treaty; and
- The need to minimize the financial burden to be borne by States Signatories.

As a corollary to these elements, the Group of 77 and China has been consistently calling for a strict observance of a zero-real-growth budget policy. The Group has taken note of CTBT/PTS/INF.1069/Rev.1 and is pleased to note that the revised proposal is below zero-real-growth level compared to the 2010 Budget. The Group believes that the final draft constitutes a good basis for the adoption of the Budget for 2011.

Mr Chairman,

The aforementioned elements are not immutable 'principles', but simply objective factors that have been the basis of the position held by the Group of 77 and China in favour of a zero-real-growth policy throughout recent budget cycles, a position which is shared by numerous other delegations and regional groups. Since they are not 'principles' set in stone, these elements are of course subject to change as the objective realities on which they are based evolve in the future. Such objective realities are, however, tied to the fundamental unknown variable which is the date for entry into force of the Treaty, and even though the emergence of a renewed political 'momentum' in this regard is undeniable, the concrete developments that are expected from it are unfortunately still scant.

The attachment of the Group of 77 and China to a zero-real-growth policy also derives from considerations related to capacity of payment, which is directly influenced by the current economic and financial crisis. At such a context of hardship, and given that many of the Member States of the Group have been having difficulties to meet their financial obligations, accepting the financial burden derived from budget increases would be incoherent and irresponsible.

This should not, however, overcast the fact that the Group of 77 and China has been actively contributing to enable the Commission to cope with its most immediate and pressing needs. This is clearly demonstrated, inter alia, by the support given by the Group to the decision by WGA on the adoption of supplementary appropriations for the ERP project and for the reconstruction of IMS stations in Chile, and by the settlement of outstanding arrears by several of its States Signatories, including by means of multi-year payment plan.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS**

Mr Chairman,

As regards agenda item 8.5, on the appointment of the Director of the Division of International Data Centre, the Group takes note of document CTBT/PTS/INF.1101, which contains a proposal by the Executive

Secretary in this regard. The Group wishes to express its appreciation for the technical competence and managerial skills demonstrated by Mr Lassina ZERBO during his tenure as Director of the International Data Centre Division. The Group therefore is willing to support the extension of his appointment for another three years from 30 October 2011 to 29 October 2014.

The Group wishes to welcome the appointment of Mr Oleg Rozhkov, as new Director of OSI and wishes to express its appreciation to Mr John Sequeira, Director of Administration, wishing him all the best in his future endeavours.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES IN 2011**

Mr Chairman,

As to agenda item 9 on the schedule of sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in 2011, the Group reiterates its view that the meetings of the Policy Making Organs should not overlap or run parallel with meetings of other United Nations bodies in Vienna, in particular the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Group appreciates the efforts made by the Secretariat to such end as reflected in the draft schedule of sessions for 2011.

As regards the schedule of sessions of Working Group B the Group of 77 and China reiterates its position. We believe that experience in the past two years has proven that, through further streamlining in terms of efficiency, the current practice of holding no more than two regular sessions, with a duration of three weeks each, allows for proper and effective consideration of issues currently on the agenda of Working Group B, while at the same time avoiding excessive burdens for States Signatories, especially developing ones, in terms of attendance of meetings by experts from capitals.

I thank you Mr Chairman.