

**Statement
By
Delegation of the
Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Before the
28th WGB Session
of the Preparatory Commission of CTBTO
5-16 February 2007**

In the Name of God
The Compassionate and the Merciful

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, let me express my satisfaction in seeing you chairing the 28th session of Working Group B. My delegation hopes that under your able stewardship and guidance, discussions will lead to fruitful conclusions, and I assure you of our full cooperation.

I would also like to thank the Executive Secretary for his oral reports and the various other written reports produced by the PTS in preparation for this Working Group meeting.

I would also like to fully associate myself with the statement of G77 and China delivered by distinguished ambassador of Sudan on behalf of the G77 and China.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to put on record the full commitment of my Government to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and thus the obligations under the CTBT.

Islamic Republic of Iran is looking carefully at the developments in nuclear disarmament and non proliferation, nevertheless attaches great importance to the work of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission and its policy making organs as well. In this regard Islamic Republic of Iran has participated proactively in all Preparatory Commission meetings and contributed to the discussions on building up and provisionally operation of the verification regime.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding this WGB meeting I would limit myself to some important issues as follows:

First of all, as recognized by the Prepcom and we are all aware, there is a deficit of participation of developing countries in the meetings of policy making organs. We are delighted that the previous Preparatory Commission meeting took the preliminary steps to consider this problem. I would like to welcome the 3 selected representatives from the Group of 77 to participate in the official meetings of the Preparatory Commission including this WGB meeting. I also thank all delegations which contributed positively to this process and appreciate the PTS for timely preparation and its professional work in this regard. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the belief that this project would contribute positively to the work of the Preparatory Commission and need to be enhanced in particular through increasing the number of participants and establishing a sustainable fund.

Concerning the Revision of the duration and organization of the WGB as tasked by the Preparatory Commission, the Islamic republic of Iran underlines the importance of transparency in the process of this review and believes that the proposal of the G77 to establish an open ended working group to study ways and means of rationalizing the duration and organization of WGB would be a sound basis in this regard. However as an interim measure we propose that no parallel session be held during the next WGB meetings in 2007.

Regarding the Changing of the coordinates of IMS stations namely IS60, the Islamic Republic of Iran takes note of the document CTBT/PTS/INF.749/Rev.2 on refinements to IS60 stations and CTBT/PTS/INF.866 on legal aspects of this change and associates itself with the concerns of the G77. Further to these concerns my delegation has some other legal and technical questions and ambiguities which are to be raised during the discussions in this WGB meeting. Hence my delegation is not convinced on the necessity of this change and expects that the PTS should continue its endeavors and negotiations with the host State to find a solution taking into account the mentioned concerns and prospect of entry into force of the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion I would like once again to assure you the full cooperation of our delegation.

Thanks for your kind attention.