

**Remarks by Mr. Michael Douglas,  
United Nations Messenger of Peace, at the Opening of the exhibition:  
“Putting An End To Nuclear Explosions”** of the Preparatory Commission for the  
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty  
4 May 2010, New York

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was born in 1944. This was the year before nuclear weapons were used for the first and last time. I certainly hope to see these terrible means of destruction eliminated in my lifetime.

On the path to a world free of nuclear weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has a crucial role to play. The CTBT bans all nuclear explosions. With the test-ban in place, would-be proliferators will not gain confidence in their nuclear designs. And it will be difficult for nuclear-weapons possessors to develop new and advanced nuclear weapons. Also, the CTBT is clearly verifiable: no nuclear test will go unnoticed with the CTBTO Monitoring System firmly in place.

I appeal to the world's governments to fulfill their commitment to nuclear disarmament contained in Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The on-going Review Conference should agree to a concrete action plan that provides a framework for nuclear disarmament. Within this context, the CTBT is an excellent first step, and easy to achieve as it is almost universally supported. Not only will this legal obligation strengthen nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, but consensus around the test ban can be easily built. Here and now, we have an opportunity we cannot miss.

We've all heard President Barack Obama's pledge to "reach out to the [US] Senate to secure the ratification of the CTBT at the earliest practical date" and "launch a diplomatic effort to bring onboard other states whose ratifications are required for the treaty to enter into force." My hope is that US Senators will put partisan issues behind them and show similar leadership when the test-ban is discussed in the Senate later on this year or at the beginning of next.

Leadership by other countries is equally important. Why wait for the United States, when your country can make a difference by acting now? Here, I salute the announcement by Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa that Indonesia will ratify the CTBT soon.

I grew up in New York City. After the Soviet Union announced that it had conducted its first nuclear test in 1949, we were told to get under the desk if we saw a bright flash. My father had a bomb shelter in the back of his yard in California. The nightmarish quality of nuclear weapons has haunted me ever since. I see no reason why our children should bear the same burden of living in the shadow of these terrible weapons. The necessary steps can be taken now.

Thank you very much.