



STATEMENT

By Ambassador Cristian Istrate of Romania

At the

876th Plenary Meeting Security Dialogue: UNSCR 1540

**Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty
Organization and its contribution to the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons**

(Vienna, 7 February 2018)

In addition to the EU Statement, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on dedicating a Security Dialogue to the CTBT and underline that our distinguished guests' presence in our midst today happens under auspicious circumstances. You were invited by the Chair of FSC, Slovakia, who will assume next year the CiO of the OSCE. And Italy holds simultaneously the Chair of the CTBTO PrepCom and the OSCE's Chairmanship this year.

I sense here a certain momentum for synergy between the global framework (CTBTO) and the largest regional organization under Chapter 8 of the UN Charter (OSCE). Both institutions are strongholds of the current security architecture and staunch contributors to international peace. Both promote nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, in line with UNSCR 1540. Both engage with youth and civil society in the pursuit of their goals. And for the 57 delegations around this table, there is an overlapping identity as participating States of the OSCE and signatories of the CTBT.

Mr. Chairman,

Supporting the CTBT's goals, but first and foremost its EIF and universalization, will definitively have a positive impact on the comprehensive security of the OSCE area, and worldwide. This is the main reason why, as a matter of longstanding policy, the EU promotes the ratification of the Treaty by the remaining Annex II countries.

Within the broader OSCE community, the quality of Annex II yet-to-ratify country can be found in the group of participating States, as well as the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation. It is fair to stress that every ratification is important in its own merit. Everyone concerned should consider taking the initiative without waiting for others, as a challenge of leadership in international governance.

Raising awareness in this respect by using existing OSCE platforms, such as FSC or Mediterranean Contact Group, could make a significant contribution. By the same token, the civil and scientific uses of CTBTO data, which could help avert disasters and promote human welfare, would be worthwhile highlighting within the Economic and Environmental Dimension of OSCE.

Short of ratification, there are other ways in which OSCE participating States can contribute to solidify the confidence in CTBTO. For instance, by maintaining at highest technological standards and operational requirements the monitoring stations located on their territory. Or, by paying in time the financial contributions to the CTBTO budget.

And we should not ignore the broader political context, defined primarily by UNSCR 1540 and the 2020 NPT review cycle. The OSCE participating States have an opportunity to join the other 126 members of CTBTO in expressing support for the total ban of nuclear test explosions at the upcoming NPT PrepCom 2 in Geneva, and highlight the value of the Treaty for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

I put my trust in the present constellation at the helm of both organizations, not the least in Dr. Lassina Zerbo, to make this and other opportunities really count.