STATEMENT BY NEW ZEALAND  
FIRST COMMITTEE, 59th UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY  

Mr Chairman,  

We have the honour to introduce, on behalf of Australia, Mexico and New Zealand,  
the resolution titled “Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty”, which, once again,  
calls for signature and ratification of the CTBT to enable it to come into force. The  
resolution’s document number is A/C.1/59/L.25.  

In the preamble to the resolution, we welcome the Friends of the CTBT Ministerial  
Meeting, which was held last month during the General Assembly, and the statement  
issued by Ministers in support of the CTBT and its early entry into force.  

In the operative section we draw your attention to operative paragraph three which  
underlines the need to maintain momentum towards completion of the verification  
regime. We recognise that only upon the entry into force will the CTBT and its  
global verification regime be fully operational. Indeed it continues to be a point of  
frustration for New Zealand, that in a world so bereft of effective verification  
provisions on weapons of mass destruction, this strong Treaty still has not entered into  
force. Setting aside such frustrations, we believe that during this set up stage the  
international monitoring system has real value in supporting global stability. This  
unprecedented network of monitoring stations, laboratories and International Data  
Centre in Vienna should, when completed, have the ability to detect nuclear  
explosions anywhere. It is important that we back our political support for the Treaty  
by assisting where we can in the practical build-up of the International Monitoring  
System.  

Operative paragraph eight is new, and requests the Secretary-General to prepare a  
report on the efforts of States Parties towards universalisation of the Treaty and  
possibilities for providing assistance on ratification procedures to States that request  
it. We have been encouraged by the substantial efforts of many countries working to  
encourage ratifications in their own regions and beyond. We believe that such a  
report will provide a more focused direction on where our universalisation efforts  
could best be directed in the future, and identify where help is available to those who  
amay need it.  

Throughout the text of the resolution we have strengthened the calls on non-member  
States to join the CTBT. The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, the cornerstone of  
nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, was extended indefinitely in 1995 largely  
on the basis of the renewed commitment by the nuclear weapons States to complete  
the CTBT and pursue the objectives of Article VI. The fulfilment of that commitment  
is now long overdue.