



**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
VÉRIFIER AU PRONONCÉ**

**STATEMENT BY MS. KERRY BUCK
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**TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
FACILITATING THE ENTRY-INTO-FORCE OF
THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY**

NEW YORK, 23 SEPTEMBER 2011

**DÉCLARATION DE MME. KERRY BUCK
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MINISTRÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES DU CANADA**

**À LA CONFÉRENCE EN VUE DE FACILITER L'ENTRÉE
EN VIGUEUR DU TRAITÉ D'INTERDICTION
COMPLÈTE DES ESSAIS NUCLÉAIRES
DES NATIONS UNIES**

NEW YORK, LE 23 SEPTEMBRE 2011

Chairpersons,

I wish to express the gratitude of the Government of Canada to you, the United Nations Secretary-General, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for your work to convene this Conference. I also wish to extend our appreciation to the delegations present here today for their continued commitment to advancing the entry into force of this vitally important Treaty. We congratulate the Marshall Islands, Central African Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Ghana and Guinea for ratifying the Treaty since the last Entry into Force Conference took place in September 2009.

When the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was opened for signature in 1996, hopes were high that the threat to international security posed by nuclear tests would at last be relegated to the dustbin of history. Fifteen years later, the Treaty enjoys wide and strong support but, regrettably, has not yet achieved entry into force. Worse still, in spite of the international norm the Treaty created, nuclear testing has not ceased. In October 2006 and May 2009, North Korea conducted nuclear test explosions in defiance of United Nations Security Council resolutions and the international community's earlier condemnation of such acts. Canada's Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, denounced North Korea's nuclear weapons program as "a

grave threat to international security". The possibility of further nuclear tests remains a concern.

Since the last Entry into Force Conference in 2009, the attention of the international community on the Treaty remains high. Most notably, the consensus outcome of the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference reinforced the intrinsic link between that Treaty and this one. Canada urges all States to pursue concrete measures to follow up on the elements of the action plan agreed at the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. As an indication of Canada's commitment to this goal, in September 2010 we joined the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, a cross-regional group of states that aims to advance the implementation of the action plan. At the group's Ministerial-level meeting in Berlin in April 2011 and again here in New York earlier this week, group's members identified advocacy efforts to promote the entry into force of the test ban as one of its primary goals.

Canada has also been successful in bringing the attention of the Group of Eight (G8) to bear on promoting the Treaty. During our 2010 Presidency, we launched an initiative to advocate for the ratification of the test ban on behalf of all Group of Eight (G8) partners in states that had not yet done so. We appreciate the efforts of France to continue this initiative during its 2011 presidency.

I wish to join the other ratifiers of the Treaty represented here today in urging the governments of all states that have not yet done so to ratify the test ban as soon as possible. It is the view of the Canadian government that there are no obstacles, whether domestic, regional or international, that cannot be overcome by applying the necessary amount of political will. I reiterate Canada's assurance that it will continue to do its part to finally make the Treaty's entry into force a reality.

Thank you.