

Statement by
H.E. Villy Søvndal
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark
at the
Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the
Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (Art. XIV)
New York, 27 September 2013

Thank you Mr President,

I would like to start by congratulating the two Co-Presidents on their election to the Presidency of the Eighth Article XIV Conference. Let me assure you about Denmark's full support in fulfilment of their important mandate. I would also like to express my great appreciation for the work carried out by their predecessors Mexico and Sweden.

I would like to thank Mr. Tibor Toth for his excellent work as Executive Secretary of the CTBTO and welcome Dr. Lassina Zerbo in his new capacity as Executive Secretary of the CTBTO. I look forward to working together with Dr. Zerbo and wish him all the best in carrying out his important mandate.

The moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions and any other nuclear test explosions must be maintained pending the entry into force of the CTBT.

The CTBT sets a global legally binding norm against any kind of nuclear explosion, enabling the international community to respond immediately to

any challenges to this norm. All States should refrain from any action that would defeat the objectives and purposes of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty pending its entry into force.

I welcome the signing of the CTBT by Niue and ratifications by Indonesia, Guatemala, Brunei Darussalam and Chad since our last session in 2011. Denmark will continue its strong support for the universalization of the CTBT. It is important to keep up the momentum of ratifications in order to encourage the ratification by the final eight Annex two countries.

The International Monitoring System of the CTBT is a crucial part of the verification regime of the CTBT, and I encourage the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) to continue this important work to complete the establishment of the monitoring system. A system, which proved its effectiveness at the latest regrettable test by the DPRK.

Denmark is proud to be the host of two monitoring stations in Greenland. The system has proven to have beneficial civilian applications, such as in support of tsunami warnings or to monitor emissions from radiological accidents. The international scientific and technological community working in the field of CTBT and its applications is an important partner in promoting the Treaty's goals and objectives. Also the scientific community of Denmark is looking into deepening its cooperation with the CTBTO.

Thank you Mr President