

Statement by Minister Péter Szijjártó
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary
at the Ninth Article XIV Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive
Nuclear Test-Ban-Treaty
New York, 29 September 2015

Your Excellency Mr. Secretary General,
Minister Retno Marsudi
High Representative Kim Won-Soo,
Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo,
Excellencies, distinguished delegates

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to address this conference of such outstanding importance for global security. Almost exactly two years ago, Hungary, together with Indonesia, formally assumed the position of Article XIV Co-Coordinator. Over the past two years, **we have been striving, jointly and individually, to reach out to States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty.** A joint Progress Report has been prepared to summarize the major activities that we have carried out in that time period.

For its part, Hungary has been actively **promoting the entry into force of the Treaty and its universalization, bilaterally as well as at various multilateral fora.** While doing so, we have put particular **emphasis on contacts with African countries.**

During our tenure, **three countries,** including two from the African continent, **joined the CTBT community.** Let me take this opportunity to welcome Niue, Congo and Angola once again.

The term in office of Hungary and Indonesia is ending today. I feel **reassured that we are transferring this important duty to two countries truly dedicated to the objectives of the CTBT: Japan and Kazakhstan.** I wish them every success in their endeavours! Although our mandate expires, Hungary will remain engaged in promoting the comprehensive ban on nuclear tests, in line with our national commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

With signature by 183 States and ratification by 164 States as of today, **the CTBT has achieved nearly universal adherence. Nonetheless, only a Treaty in force will confine the chapter of nuclear testing to history books.**

We have to leave unfinished business to our successors, with eight remaining Annex II countries that have yet to formally endorse the treaty. However, I believe they share our view that embracing the Treaty will enhance their security, as well as their international standing. Thus, let me conclude by **appealing to all States to make their utmost effort to achieve the entry into force of the CTBT at the earliest possible date.**