Twelfth Conference on

Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT

Statement by H.E. Mr. Toshimitsu MOTEGI,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan

His Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN,

Dr. Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO,

Distinguished delegates,

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the opening for signature of the CTBT. The CTBT has achieved nearly universality. It is signed by 185 states and ratified by 170 states as of today. I commend this achievement.

The development of its verification system has also shown remarkable progress. Nearly 90 percent of the International Monitoring System has now been established.

However, we regret that the CTBT has not yet come into force even after 25 years. Japan calls upon all States, especially the remaining eight Annex II States, to make every effort to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay.

While the CTBT has not come into effect, prohibition of nuclear testing has been functioning as a de facto international norm. Since the dawn of the 21st century, no country has conducted nuclear testing, with one exception.

Japan has been paying close attention to North Korea’s nuclear development with grave interest. It is imperative to realize the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all WMD and ballistic missiles of all ranges by North Korea. This is our common goal under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We call upon North Korea to sign and ratify the CTBT.

As the only country which has suffered from atomic bombings during war, Japan has made vigorous efforts to advance nuclear disarmament. To this end, Japan is fully committed to achieving the entry-into-force of the CTBT, working together with both nuclear and non-nuclear weapon States.

In closing, I would like to express my strong support to Dr. Floyd. I wish Italy and South Africa every success as new coordinators. I will lend my full support to them so that tangible progress will be made toward the entry-into-force of the CTBT. That progress will lead to the steady advancement of nuclear disarmament. 　　 I strongly believe that the determination we have shown today will contribute to the realization of this goal.