



# KAZAKHSTAN

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**Statement by**  
**H. E. Mr. Erlan Idrissov**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan**  
**at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force**  
**of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Article IV)**

**27 September 2013**  
**New York**

**Mr. Secretary-General, Co-Presidents, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,**

At the outset, allow me to extend my appreciation to the co-conveners of this Eighth Biennial Conference for their tireless efforts, and commendable record with sincere appreciation for the dedicated professionalism of H.E. Mr. Tibor Toth during his tenure as Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission. We welcome his successor, Dr. Lassina Zerbo, and his able staff, and wish them every success in their important mandate.

As we meet here today, 17 years after the CTBT was opened for signature in New York, we note with satisfaction that 159 States have already ratified the Treaty and 183 have signed it. The considerable progress that has been made thus far in advancing the CTBT's entry into force is irreversible. But we must prevent this vital process from becoming stagnant. We express our sincere hope, shared by an overwhelming majority of the international community, that the remaining Annex 2 States, whose ratification is required, will do so without delay and make the universalization of the Treaty a matter of utmost priority.

Presently, a voluntary moratorium against nuclear weapons tests enjoys near-universal political support. However in these past 17 years, seven nuclear tests have been conducted, and one as recent as this year, demonstrating again the destructive power of nuclear weapons. The international community has no assurance that nuclear weapons will ever again be tested by any country. This moratorium cannot be seen as a substitute for a strong, transparent, confidence-building, and legally-binding obligation. It is only when the CTBT enters into force that we minimize the threat of new states developing nuclear weapons, while restricting the ability of existing nuclear weapon states to develop new lethal weapons or to modernize them.

For its part, the Republic of Kazakhstan has been an unwavering supporter of banning the testing of nuclear weapons. We also strive to ensure that the Treaty's deterrence and detection mechanisms – the International Monitoring System and the On-Site Inspection Regime – are also fully-operational even before the Treaty enters into force. They are important not just in terms of detecting nuclear test explosions, but also for civil and scientific applications. Last year, the world was afforded a hitherto unprecedented capability to monitor in real-time the emission of radioactive substances in the aftermath of the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster. We therefore call on Signatory States to provide the political and financial support to complete this verification regime.

We welcome the continued progress made by State Signatories and the Preparatory Commission in improving its functionality, and commend the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for its offer to host an Integrated Field Exercise in 2014 (IFE-2014). The Republic of Kazakhstan, which has been the venue for a total of four CTBTO field exercises in 1999, 2002, 2005 and 2008, stands ready to offer its expertise and experience to Jordan.

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation has been the official policy of Kazakhstan since the first day of its independence. On 29 August 1991, Kazakhstan demonstrated an unprecedented example of courage to the world in general, and to Nuclear Weapon States in particular, when by a Presidential Decree the Semipalatinsk Nuclear test site was shut down. The country also voluntarily renounced its nuclear weapons stockpile – at that time the fourth largest in the world. It did so, to ensure that future generations may live on a safer and more stable

planet. We encourage others to follow this example, in order to achieve a nuclear weapons free world.

In addition to working closely with CTBTO on monitoring and verification efforts and exercises, my country has contributed in two significant ways to create global public awareness about the destructive power of these weapons and thus accelerate CTBT's entry into force. First, by initiating resolution A 64/35, designating 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests, which was adopted by the General Assembly on 2 December 2009. The second was the establishment of an innovative internet-based project, called "Abolish Testing. Our Mission", widely known by its acronym, ATOM. It is a global advocacy campaign calling upon world leaders to move towards nuclear abolition. I invite each one of you to sign this online petition by visiting its website ([theatomproject.org](http://theatomproject.org)) to mobilize worldwide action to universalize the CTBT.

The fourth observance of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, held exactly a month ago, gave a loud and clear message that special efforts must be made to highlight how the CTBT adds to global security – not just as a brake to nuclear militarization, but as a vital confidence building mechanism in areas of nuclear regional stand-offs and conflicts. Together, we therefore need to intensify our political and public diplomacy efforts. Every new Member State that ratifies the CTBT sends a powerful message to those who have not, signaling that it is time for them to join the global momentum.

Kazakhstan therefore supports the adoption of a strong and unanimous declaration at this Conference expressing our political will and commitment to bringing the CTBT into force and fully implementing it. We realize that the path remaining to entry into force will not be traveled quickly or easily, but it is a path that we must continue to follow if we are to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Thank you for your attention.