

**Statement**  
**by**  
**the Representative of the Republic of Korea**  
**at**  
**the Article IV Conference of the CTBT**  
**New York, September 27, 2013**

Thank you Madame Chair,

I would also like to express my appreciation to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for convening this important meeting. I wish to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate you, Dr. Lassina Zerbo, on your appointment as new Executive Secretary of the CTBT Preparatory Commission.

Madame Chair,

The CTBT is a product of decades-long global efforts to rid the world once and for all of nuclear tests. The Treaty constitutes an essential element of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and represents an important milestone in our efforts to realize the vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

Today, the CTBT enjoys near universal adherence, with 183 States having signed, and 161 States having ratified, the Treaty. Although the CTBT has not yet entered into force, nuclear test moratorium has become a *de facto* norm recognized by the vast majority of States. Since our previous meeting in 2011, Indonesia, one of the States listed in Annex 2, has ratified the Treaty, bringing us one step closer to its entry into force. It is encouraging that three more states, Iraq, Guinea-Bissau, Guatemala, Brunei Darussalam and Chad have also ratified the Treaty.

However, 17 years after the Treaty was opened for signature, its entry into force is long overdue, which compels us to pursue this goal with a greater sense of urgency. I would therefore like to join other colleagues in urging all States which have not yet ratified the Treaty, particularly those States listed in

Annex 2, to do so without further delay. My delegation also welcomes the initiative of the Executive Secretary to launch the 「Group of Eminent Persons」 whose wealth of experience and expertise will hopefully facilitate the Treaty's entry into force.

Pending the entry into force of the CTBT, the international community must continue to adhere to the letter and spirit of the Treaty, and refrain from any action that would hamper its object and purpose. Above all, it is imperative that States continue to uphold and maintain the voluntary moratorium on nuclear tests.

Madame Chair,

The continued nuclear tests by the DPRK, including its third test on 12 February 2013, are highly deplorable acts which not only pose a serious threat to international peace and security, but threaten to undermine the very foundation of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The Republic of Korea urges the DPRK not to conduct any further nuclear tests, and to fully comply with its obligations under relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the 19 September Joint Statement, including abandoning all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

Madame Chair,

We are pleased to witness substantial progress in the CTBT verification regime, with approximately 85% of the International Monitoring System stations envisaged by the Treaty having been installed by now. The effectiveness of the CTBT verification regime was further demonstrated in its detection of the DPRK's nuclear tests. Such progress provides confidence that compliance with the Treaty can be effectively monitored upon the Treaty's entry into force. We commend the excellent work by former Executive Secretary Tibor Toth in this regard, and have every confidence that the verification system will continue its progressive development under the leadership of Dr. Lassina Zerbo.

I would like to conclude by stressing that, as one of the original signatories to the CTBT in 1996, the Republic of Korea is strongly committed to the Treaty and its objectives. My Government supports the Final Declaration of this Conference, and will continue to work together with other States towards the Treaty's entry into force and its universalization.

Thank you. / End/