Latvia's Statement at the Ninth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

(New York, 29 September 2015)

Mr President,

Latvia would like to congratulate Japan and Kazakhstan on the assumption of the presidency of this conference. Latvia also thanks Hungary and Indonesia for their tireless efforts during the previous two years. I express Latvia's gratitude to the secretary General for convening this conference, and to Dr. Lassina Zerbo and his colleagues from the CTBTO Secretariat for their hard work.

The nuclear tests conducted in the past must be the last tests ever conducted. The entry into force of the CTBT is central to ensuring that.

The CTBT is an indispensable tool in our efforts to stop the spread and further development of nuclear weapons, and eventually bringing us closer to our ultimate goal – a world without nuclear weapons. The entry into force of the Treaty is not only a political imperative, but also a concrete contribution to strengthening international peace and security.

Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of the CTBT. We welcome the ratification of CTBT by Angola, Congo and Niue – an important step in the process of universalisation.

Pending the entry into force of the CTBT, Latvia welcomes the moratorium on nuclear test explosions, declared also by states which have not yet ratified the Treaty.

However, such voluntary moratorium cannot substitute the legal ban of nuclear tests, as they can be unilaterally revoked at any time. Latvia hopes that the remaining Annex 2 countries, upon which the entry into force of the Treaty depends, will do what is necessary to ensure the entry into force of the Treaty.

Once again, we would like to commend the work carried out by the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, its Executive Secretary, the Group of Eminent Persons for CTBT, and others in promoting the entry into force of the CTBT, an express our hope that it will happen sooner rather than later.

Thank you!