



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC  
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**STATEMENT**

by

**H.E. MR. NIKOLA POPOSKI**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

at the

**CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE  
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY (ARTICLE XIV)**

**New York, 23 September 2011**

**Mr. Secretary General,  
Distinguished Chairs,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, allow me to express my pleasure to be part of this significant event and convey my country's consistent commitment to CTBT's overarching mission to ban nuclear weapon test explosions.

On August 29, 2011, for the second time in history, the world celebrated the International Day against Nuclear Tests. Driven by a widely acclaimed goal for a nuclear-weapon-free world, this day symbolises the historical impetus towards global moratorium on all nuclear tests. The closure of Semipalatinsk test-site in Kazakhstan, which inspired the inauguration of this day, is a tangible contribution in the struggle for safer and more secure societies, and thus should serve as a positive pattern even for the most resilient nuclear technology holders to ratify the treaty as soon as possible.

We hail substantial efforts made by many countries to encourage ratification in their own regions and worldwide. The treaty is near to achieve universal adherence after being signed by 182 and ratified by 154 countries. While welcoming the reinvigorated debate on constraining further development of nuclear weapons and encouraged by clear signs of commitment to the entry into force by a number of Annex 2 States, we appeal to them to consider early ratification of this valuable instrument.

More than a decade ago (on March 14, 2000) Macedonia ratified the CTBT and since then we have supported all efforts aiming at its universal adherence. We perceive the CTBT as one of the crucial pillars of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, which I wholeheartedly believe, would contribute vastly to the prevention of nuclear weapon renaissance, which may result in repeating nuclear arms races. Let me, therefore, once again reaffirm our full support to the pledge moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions pending the entry into force of the Treaty.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The CTBT remains a very important instrument of non-proliferation, serving not only to constrain the existing nuclear holders, but also to limit the development of nuclear capabilities of countries that do not possess them. Moreover, this treaty is crucial in a world witnessing the resurgence of nuclear energy and technologies, which, if not properly controlled, represents a global threat which concerns all countries and overall world's population. The CTBT is a significant instrument that not only contributes to more secure world, but also represents a vital pillar of human security. In this context, let me also acknowledge the humanitarian benefits from application of the CTBT International Monitoring System in regard to natural disasters and underline the necessity of sharing the benefits among states.

In conclusion, let me assure you that my country remains committed to full implementation of the treaty obligations and its universal adherence. Thank you very much.