

**9th CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF
THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY (ARTICLE XIV)**

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NEW ZEALAND**

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Mr President

New Zealand remains firmly committed to the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons. We believe that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is a vital step towards reaching this goal.

We welcome the three countries – Niue, Congo and Angola - that have ratified the CTBT since our last meeting here in New York for the eighth Article XIV conference in 2013.

We also welcome all those who have made progress towards ratification of the CTBT and encourage them to continue this important work. Each new ratification helps to bring the Treaty closer to universalisation.

New Zealand salutes the progress made to date on the Treaty's verification regime, particularly the International Monitoring System. It is crucial that we continue to build and maintain this system so that it is fully operational upon the Treaty's entry into force. New Zealand also appreciates the valuable scientific and civil benefits already provided by the IMS, including with regards to tsunami early warnings and other disaster alert systems. These benefits were most recently highlighted by the almost one hundred IMS stations that registered the substantial earthquake off the coast of Chile last month, enabling countries around the Pacific to prepare for the tsunami pulse that followed.

But let us not forget the real reason why the international community recognised the need for a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing. The vast majority of nuclear weapon detonations have occurred as nuclear tests, with literally hundreds of atmospheric and underground tests explosions having been carried out in the Pacific. The health, ecological, economic and sociological effects of nuclear weapons can be contained in neither time nor space, as many people can attest. In this, the seventieth year since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, New Zealand again highlights that the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons should spur the entry into force of the CTBT as a step towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

The CTBT also makes an important contribution to constraining the qualitative improvement of existing nuclear weapons and limiting the development of advanced new types of such weapons, as well as preventing their proliferation. We must resist any temptation to slip back towards an arms race, and we must take concrete steps on nuclear disarmament.

Mr President

New Zealand was pleased, as part of the Vienna Group of Ten, to submit a working paper to the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that included six recommendations focused on the CTBT. These recognised the urgent imperative for the CTBT's entry into force, and the need for existing moratoria on nuclear weapons test explosions and other explosions in the interim.

Almost twenty years after the CTBT was negotiated, we call on the remaining Annex Two states – China, the Democratic Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States of America – to move to ratify the CTBT as quickly as possible, so that the Treaty may enter into force and become international law.

New Zealand strongly supports the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the CTBT, which recognises the Treaty as a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We will continue to support the Treaty to enable it to fulfil its purpose.