



PHILIPPINES

Statement delivered by
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Permanent Representative

FOR THE
TENTH ARTICLE XIV CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
TO THE
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT)

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UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Philippine Government and the Filipino people, I wish to convey our sincere appreciation to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO and Executive Secretary Dr. Lassina Zerbo, and the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, in cooperation with the Article XIV Co-Coordinator, for this invitation to participate in the Tenth Article XIV Conference of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

We are here today for the Tenth Article XIV Conference for the CTBT to find effective ways and measures to expedite the entry into force of this extremely important, and at this juncture in human history, crucial Treaty.

The Philippines strongly believes that the Treaty has proven to be beneficial to the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agenda by effectively stigmatizing nuclear test explosions and tests.

The Philippines also recognizes the critical role of the Treaty as a key confidence-building measure to promote cooperation with other States in strengthening the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

The Philippines notes that this year marks the 21st Anniversary since the Treaty was opened up for signing in 1996. However, the Philippines conveys its deep concern that the Treaty, which bans all nuclear explosions and testing for both civilian and military purposes, has not yet entered into force.

The Philippines reiterates its call on the eight remaining Annex II States that have yet to sign and/or ratify the Treaty to summon the necessary political will, and take urgent steps to sign and/or ratify this important document at the soonest possible time.

The Philippines also urges the CTBT States Signatories to further intensify, and be unrelenting in, our efforts to persuade the Annex II States to sign and ratify the Treaty, to ensure its entry into force, and to uphold and strengthen the universalization of the CTBT.

The Philippines is deeply committed to a world free of nuclear weapons as enshrined in the Philippine Constitution. As a founding member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Philippines is party to the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFFZ) of the Bangkok Treaty.

The Philippines likewise reaffirms its strong commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone for non-proliferation regime and a critical component to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.

Article VI of the NPT and one of the major components of the NPT's 64-Point Action was the initiative to convene of a UN Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons Leading to Their Total Elimination.

The Philippines supported the adoption of the landmark Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty in July, in so doing, acknowledging the dire consequences for mankind if nuclear weapons are ever used.

Furthermore, the Philippines sees the CTBT, NPT and the nuclear ban treaty as mutually reinforcing and complementary, and that the ban treaty does not undermine the CTBT and the NPT.

The Philippines expresses its serious concern on the recent alarming developments and escalating tensions in the Korean Peninsula. The DPRK is the only state that has conducted nuclear tests in the 21st century. Indeed, the DPRK's actions is cause for deep and serious concern for the Philippines, ASEAN, and the international community. The Philippines underscores the urgent need for the resumption of dialogue among concerned parties.

We condemn the nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches which are in flagrant violation of pertinent UN Security Council Resolutions. We renew our call on the DPRK to desist from continuing these acts of provocation and abandon all its nuclear weapons programmes in the interest of regional and international peace and stability.

Let me take this opportunity to commend the tremendous efforts and perseverance of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) led by CTBTO Executive Secretary Dr. Lassina Zerbo for the effective implementation and performance of a comprehensive CTBTO verification regime.

The CTBTO's International Monitoring System (IMS) has provided highly reliable scientific data on the nuclear tests conducted by North Korea. The valuable scientific data has proven the efficacy and reliability of CTBTO's verification regime.

The Philippines is currently hosting three monitoring facilities namely, a Radionuclide Station in Tanay, Rizal; and two Auxiliary Seismic Stations in Tagaytay, Cavite and in Mintal, Davao.

All three stations have been certified and achieved minimum optimal level of performance including data transmission and receipt from the International Data Centre in Vienna. As host of these three certified monitoring facilities, the Philippines expresses its deep appreciation to the CTBTO's provision of equipment and the technical and financial assistance in the upgrading and maintenance of these facilities.

Furthermore, we are deeply thankful for the capacity building and training provided by the PTS to our National Data Center (NDC).

The Philippines supports the Draft Final Declaration and Measures to promote the Entry into Force of the CTBT for the Tenth Article XIV Conference which will be issued today as a testament to our common vision and future endeavors.

In the 21 years of the existence of the CTBT, the CTBTO Preparatory Commission has made remarkable strides in its efforts towards—

- 1) Achieving the near-universalization of the Treaty with only eight remaining Annex II States to be persuaded to sign and/or ratify the Treaty and thus, expediting its Entry into Force; and
- 2) Establishing and implementing a highly efficient CTBTO verification regime.

We commenced this journey 21 years ago with the signing of the Treaty. We acknowledge that much work and greater concerted efforts need to be done in the face of sobering developments in the world today.

Thank you.