



# PHILIPPINES

---

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. EVAN P. GARCIA  
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**On the Occasion of the  
8<sup>th</sup> Conference on  
Facilitating the Entry Into Force of the CTBT (Article XIV)**

**27 September 2013  
UNHQ**

Your Excellency, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
The Chairs of the Conference, His Excellency Janos Martonyi and His Excellency  
Marty Natalegawa, Foreign Ministers of Hungary and Indonesia, respectively  
Excellencies, Ministers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

My delegation reaffirms its steadfast support for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty as a crucial step for systematic and progressive efforts towards nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

The Philippines recognizes the critical role of the CTBT as a key confidence building mechanism to promote cooperation among States in resolving issues that have huge ramifications on regional and global security.

The CTBT is a crucial component of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to achieve nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Its early entry into force will give a critical boost to global efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons. Its effectiveness, however lies in the universal adherence by States to the letter and intent of the Treaty.

In this regard, the Philippines welcome the establishment of a Group of Eminent Persons by the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission to assist the activities of ratifying States to promote the objectives of the Treaty and to facilitate its early entry into force.

As a signatory and ratifying State, and as an active player in various disarmament fora, the Philippines consistently supported the call for the early entry into force of the CTBT. We have also been active in promoting the CTBT through bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.

My delegation welcomes the 183 States that have signed and the 161 States that have ratified the CTBT, including 36 whose ratifications are necessary for its entry into force. We laud the governments of Guinea Bissau and Iraq for their recent ratification of the CTBT.

The Philippines urges all remaining States, especially those eight (8) States whose signatures and ratifications are necessary for entry into force of the Treaty to take the necessary steps without further delay.

The Philippines also welcomes President Obama's renewed call to action for U.S. ratification of the CTBT in a speech in Berlin last June.

In our backyard, the Philippines remains committed in working for the eventual ratification by countries in the Asia Pacific region, particularly by ASEAN Member States, which have not yet signed and ratified the Treaty.

As such, my delegation welcomes the announcement made by Thailand last year to pursue and complete its ratification process as soon as possible. The Philippines is confident that the region has a strong potential to soon obtain full adherence to the CTBT.

Mr. Chairman,

Pending the entry into force of the CTBT, the Philippines reaffirm its commitment, as expressed in the conclusions and recommendations of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, to call on all States to refrain from conducting nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions.

The Philippines reminds States Parties to the NPT to implement and abide by Actions 10 to 14 of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

The Philippines condemns the 12 February 2013 nuclear test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). We urge DPRK not to conduct any further nuclear tests and to fully comply with the 2005 Joint Statement agreed upon in the framework of the Six-Party Talks and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The voluntary nuclear test moratorium is now an established norm. However, the challenge remains on how we can move from voluntary to mandatory moratorium which the CTBT's entry into force will make possible.

Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines welcome the advances made by the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO in building the Treaty's verification regime including the International Monitoring System (IMS), International Data Centre and On-Site Inspections and reiterate the importance of the capacity building activities relating to National Data Centers.

On 12 February 2013, the IMS proved its worth when it was able to successfully detect the nuclear test explosions of the DPRK before it announced that it had conducted a nuclear test. This should allay the fears of some States that other countries would be able to conduct nuclear test explosions and avoid detection, thus making the treaty ineffectual.

The Philippines is also encouraged that the CTBT verification regime has also demonstrated its utility in providing accurate real-time data relating to major

earthquakes, tsunamis and nuclear accidents, as well as other civil scientific applications to all States Signatories.

As a manifestation of their strong political support and commitment to the Treaty, States Signatories have infused significant investments in the establishment of a verification system mandated by the Treaty in preparation for its entry into force. The Philippines has contributed by hosting three (3) stations which are part of the International Monitoring System (IMS) of this verification regime.

The Philippines continues to advocate for the utilization of the IMS facilities for various civil and humanitarian purposes and capacity development initiatives pending the Treaty's entry into force, especially considering the substantial investments that have been made into its build-up. The Philippines consistently pays its assessed contribution to the regular budget in full and on time, and wishes to avail of the full benefits of the IMS facilities.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, the CTBT undoubtedly has crucial role to play in building a safer and more secure world. The Philippines believes that the objectives of the CTBT will be fully realized if all countries that possess nuclear weapons capability adhere to the Treaty to ensure security, promote stability and build confidence throughout the world.

As such, the Philippines calls upon these countries to show strong and true leadership in supporting the CTBT.

Thank you.