



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

delivered by

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**CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CTBT
(a.k.a. ARTICLE XIV CONFERENCE), 23 SEPTEMBER 2021**

[Time Limit: 3 Minutes]

Mr. and Madam Co-Presidents,
Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Anniversaries are usually cause for celebration. Yet our meeting today for the 25th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty calls not for celebration but caution and deep reflection on a matter without exaggeration of life and death for all mankind.

Despite near-universal support, the CTBT still has not entered into force. True, we have accomplished much in the past 25 years:

- We **established a global norm** against explosive nuclear testing. States who do so are met with unequivocal universal condemnation;
- We steadily **built up a verification regime**. The *International Monitoring System* is around 90% complete. The Philippines is proud to host three of these facilities. The *International Data Center* in Vienna is in place to process and analyze data from the IMS. Preparations are underway to operationalize *On-Site Inspections*, upon the Treaty's entry into force; and
- We have **identified civil and scientific applications** – including tsunami warnings — for the wealth of data generated by the IMS and IDC.

Everyone's been dressed for a party that's been repeatedly called off. For all these are for naught if we do not take the next step of having in force a legally binding prohibition against explosive nuclear testing. The condemnation has been universal; the prohibition has been spotty; always short of legal force. This is urgent. This is essential to the broader non-proliferation and disarmament agenda.

The 170 Ratifying States are understandably frustrated. We once again add our voice and amplify the call for the eight remaining Annex 2 States to sign and ratify the CTBT without delay. We join consensus on the "Final Declaration" adopted by this Conference.

The only true measure of our success is if we succeed to make this Article XIV Conference our last. It is the Philippines' hope that we are not engaged like that figure of myth in rolling a giant stone up a hill and slipping because the 8 atop the hill have thrown banana skins on the ground just one step shy of seeing in our lifetime a comprehensive nuclear ban treaty in full effect on top of the hill that offers finally a place of rest and a long, unclouded vision of mankind's future. Thank you.