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**Utkast till anförande vid CTBT:s 20årsjubileum, Wien,
den 13 juni 2016**

Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would first of all like to thank the Government of Romania, Article XIV coordinators Kazakhstan and Japan and Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo for arranging this timely meeting to celebrate 20 years since the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty opened for signature.

We have come a long way indeed since then. The Preparatory Commission and its Provisional Technical Secretariat have done a fantastic job building up the foundation for the CTBTO. A sophisticated system has been developed for monitoring compliance with the CTBT, whose data are available to all State Signatories to the Treaty. And the International Monitoring System has proven its worth – not least by providing reliable data on the condemnable nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea.

The effects on humans and nature of the over 2000 nuclear tests carried out over 50 years are severe. Test sites remain uninhabitable to man and land and pristine coral reefs have been destroyed. These effects serve as a stark reminder of the unacceptable and incalculable humanitarian and environmental consequences that would result if nuclear weapons were ever used again. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty gives us hope that such a horrible scenario will not occur again.

Chairperson,

Disarmament is a top priority for my Government. Accordingly, Sweden is highly preoccupied with the current stalemate in nuclear disarmament. Modernization and even expansion of nuclear arsenals take us further away from our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, and threats and attempts at intimidation by nuclear-weapon states are particularly unhelpful. Solemn commitments made in the NPT commitments remain largely unrealized, creating frustration among non-nuclear-weapon States, and fuelling calls for further action.

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Sweden has been a strong champion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty since the time that it was negotiated. Indeed, as mentioned by Her Excellency Ms. Federica Mogherini this morning, the entire European Union is united behind this goal, which would constitute an important milestone towards the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. And it is a step to which all States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty are committed.

Sweden's support for the CTBT is both political and technical in nature:

- Sweden was Article XIV coordinator from 2011 to 2013, focusing our efforts on wider adherence to the treaty in Southeast Asia. The ratification by Indonesia – Article XIV coordinator until September last year – as well as by Brunei Darussalam was a very welcome development.
- Sweden hosted the first substantive meeting of the CTBTO Group of Eminent Persons in Stockholm in April 2014, and we are pleased to continue to support Dr. Hans Blix's participation in "the GEM".
- Technology for noble gas detection developed by the Swedish Defence Research Agency is installed at many radionuclide monitoring stations around the world, and provided the proverbial "smoking gun" at the recent field inspection exercise in Jordan. The government has tasked FOI with developing a third generation of the "SAUNA system" in support of CTBT verification system.
- Through Dr. Ola Dahlman – a long-time chair of Working Group B – Swedish expertise played an important role in setting up the International Monitoring System. Sweden continues to develop analytical methods and training for CTBT technical experts from around the world.
- Last but not least, Sweden is a candidate for a seat on the Security Council from 2017 to 2018, where Sweden will be in a position to contribute further to promoting the norm against nuclear testing and the entry into force of the CTBT.

Chairperson,

Let me end by quoting Foreign Minister Margot Wallström's statement at the 2015 Article XIV Conference.

"The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty gives us hope that our shared vision of a more humane world where nuclear testing remains a thing of the past, may come to fruition. Today, we renew our call on all States that have not yet done so, in particular the eight remaining Annex 2 countries, to join us in realizing that vision."

Thank you Chairperson.