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## PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by Ömer Tüzel, Deputy Director General  
for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation to the  
Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the  
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty  
New York, 23 September 2011**

Mr. President,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Whilst my country associates itself with the EU statement, in light of the importance my country attaches to the work of the CTBTO we would like to make this additional statement in our national capacity.

Like others, we equally wish to congratulate the co-Presidents Mexico and Sweden, and wish them success in their endeavours. They can count on our full support.

Turkey views Article XIV Conferences, organized on the margins of the UN General Assembly, as an important opportunity to underpin the importance our countries attach to the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Entry into force will be a crucial step in stemming the proliferation of nuclear weapons, which constitutes a major concern for us all. The renewed political will to pursue ratification, in particular by remaining Annex 2 States will give new impetus to our efforts to achieve the earliest possible entry into force of this key treaty. We call on them to do so without further delay. We also commend the political commitment of Guinea and Ghana who have joined our large family.

Mr. President,

Already before its entry into force, the CTBT has a remarkable record of accomplishments, for which we owe its Executive Director Mr Tibor Toth and the professionalism of the Provisional Technical Secretariat a debt of gratitude. Regular meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization keep the momentum behind the political objectives of the CTBT alive and provide guidance for their implementation at technical level. The work carried out by the Provisional Technical Secretariat, which over the years, has grown into an efficient and well managed institution is impressive and commendable. The international monitoring system and inspection regime are continuously being built up.

The relevance of a credible and operational verification system was demonstrated with the successful technical work conducted by the Provisional Technical Secretariat after the nuclear tests conducted by the DPRK in 2006 and 2009, and most recently in the tragic earthquake and tsunami in Japan, as well as the dramatic events in its aftermath. Therefore, following the entry into force of the CTBT it will be essential to maintain a full-fledged and efficient organization, free from financial and other constraints.

Mr. President,

Since the inception of the CTBT, Turkey has honoured and in the future will continue to live up to its political, financial and technical commitments in line with its well known position favoring global, overall disarmament and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as upholding relevant international regimes and instruments. We will continue our efforts to contribute to the early entry into force of the Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty.

In this vein, Turkey is happy to announce that a workshop will be held in Istanbul in November co-chaired with the CTBTO and under the patronage of the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs aimed at raising awareness of this important regime.

Furthermore, as a member of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), referred to by previous speakers, we are determined to also work through the NPDI to further the goals of the CTBTO for the universal application of the regime.

Thank you.