



United Kingdom
Mission to the
United Nations

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM

2013 CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2013

Mr Co-Presidents,

I am honoured to represent the United Kingdom at the eighth Article XIV Conference, and pleased to reaffirm the UK's support for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Its early entry into force is one of the UK Government's key disarmament and non-proliferation priorities.

The UK was among the first to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and has since that point been a staunch advocate of it. We are pleased with the progress the Treaty has seen over the past two years – including the signature by Niue in 2012 and ratifications by Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Guatemala and Indonesia in February 2012. Every additional signature and ratification significantly strengthens the Treaty. The trend is positive, and the challenge now is to maintain this momentum to achieve our shared goal of universality of the CTBT.

The UK would also like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the new Executive Secretary of the CTBT Organisation's Preparatory Committee, Dr. Lassina Zerbo, and to assure him that the UK will assist him in his work in any way that we can.

Mr Co-Presidents,

The May 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference action plan noted that ratification by all of the NPT-recognised nuclear-weapon states would have a positive impact towards entry into force of the CTBT. The UK welcomes President Obama's statement made on 19 June this year that he will work to build support in the United States to ratify the Treaty. I urge all other Annex 2 countries yet to sign or ratify the Treaty to undertake similar measures so it can enter into force.

The credibility of the Treaty is based upon a strong verification regime, and no state should be in doubt that the CTBT Organisation's International Monitoring System is already capable of detecting illicit nuclear explosions. This was demonstrated earlier this year by the detection of a nuclear explosion initiated by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February. The UK condemned in the strongest possible terms the continued development of nuclear weapons and a ballistic missile programme by the DPRK in direct violation of UN Security Council Resolutions.

Mr Co-Presidents,

The UK has been active in its support of the CTBT Organisation's work in establishing the International Monitoring System and the Treaty's On-Site Inspection capability. We have provided expert advice in seismology, radiochemistry and on-site inspection to help realise the objective of having a viable and effective verification system by the time the Treaty enters into force. I welcome the considerable efforts that other states have taken to strengthen the regime, including China's recent decision to provide data from its monitoring stations to the International Data Centre in Vienna. I believe that through our collective endeavour, we can ensure that no state is able to carry out illicit nuclear explosive tests undetected or unpunished.

In addition to its work on the CTBT, the UK has been building on its strong disarmament record, in line with the 2010 NPT action plan. The UK has, I believe, demonstrated a high level of transparency regarding both the nuclear capabilities that we possess and the role that they play within UK defence doctrine as set out in our 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review.

The UK has led on building disarmament dialogues, including with the P5 through the P5 Conference process that we instigated in 2009, and with non-nuclear-weapon states, as evident in the UK-Norway Initiative, a collaborative research programme looking at the technical aspects of nuclear warhead dismantlement verification.

Mr Co-Presidents,

In closing, I would like to emphasise again the UK's commitment to achieve the entry into force of the CTBT. We stand ready to assist any Annex 2 country working towards ratification. Entry into force of the Treaty will be a major boost to the global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, a tangible step towards a safer and more stable world and, ultimately, towards a world without nuclear weapons.

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