

Ethiopia's Statement

At the CTBT Ministerial Meeting

13 June 2016, Vienna

As we mark the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), Ethiopia reaffirms its firm belief that the early entry into force of this Treaty is of utmost urgency and importance to ensure the sustainability of global peace and security where today it has been confronted with all sorts of threats to undermine it.

Ethiopia welcomes the fact that the CTBT has achieved near universal adherence with signature by 183 States and ratification by 167 States thus far. Ethiopia signed the CTBT on September 24, 1996, at the time when it was opened for signature, and ratified it in August 2006. The significance of the Treaty is beyond doubt as it provides not only an effective mechanism to limit nuclear weapons, but also plays a key role in strengthening international peace and security.

The International Monitoring System (IMS) and International Data Centre established by the Treaty are point in case. They provide the monitoring capabilities necessary to promptly detect, identify, locate and attribute nuclear weapon test explosions. The same verification system has civil and scientific applications that can assist in areas such as disaster risk reduction and environmental monitoring. The system can also play a significant role in strengthening, through training and capacity building, the national institutions and know-how of the developing countries. Moreover, today, as a result of the strong scientific and technical capabilities of the CTBTO, it has become impossible for any nuclear test to go unnoticed.

It is worth mentioning here that the signing of the CTBT was a source of great victory for international diplomacy as it is critical in resolving global security challenges that humankind faces today. We need, however, to recognize the fact that the Treaty cannot substitute a legally binding global ban and thus the international community has to address this issue concurrently and without further delay. In this context, this high-level foreign ministerial meeting will provide an important opportunity to call upon those leaders of States who have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty, and all leaders consider making the treaty binding one. Ethiopia remains committed to work in collaboration with all states to realize this universal goal of attaining peace for our better world and succeeding generation.

