

9th CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY (ARTICLE XIV)

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NEW ZEALAND

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr President

New Zealand remains strongly committed to the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons and we firmly believe that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty plays a crucial role in achieving such a world. We will continue to support the Treaty to enable it to fulfil its role in contributing to this ultimate goal.

The CTBT also makes an important contribution to constraining the qualitative improvement of existing nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of such weapons, as well as preventing their proliferation.

We welcome those States which have ratified the CTBT since our last meeting here in New York for the seventh Article XIV Conference in 2011. In particular we congratulate Indonesia for its active leadership on this issue, reducing to eight the number of Annex 2 States still to ratify the Treaty.

We also welcome all those who have made progress towards ratification of the CTBT and we encourage them to continue this important work. Each new ratification serves to advance the universalization of the Treaty. In this regard New Zealand would like to highlight the positive steps taken by Niue, the CTBT's newest State signatory.

This ninth Article XIV Conference, 17 years since the negotiation of the Treaty, finds us still striving towards its entry into force. New Zealand adds its voice to those calling on all States to demonstrate their commitment to an end to nuclear testing, and urges those remaining Annex 2 States in particular to show leadership by ratifying the Treaty without delay.

New Zealand welcomes the progress made to date on the Treaty's verification regime, particularly the International Monitoring System. It is crucial that we continue to build and maintain this system so that it is operational at the Treaty's entry into force. New Zealand also recognises the valuable scientific and civil benefits already provided to states by the IMS, including in the field of tsunami early-warnings and other disaster-alert systems. These benefits were most recently highlighted in the 2013 Communiqué of the Pacific Islands Forum and which also urged universal ratification of the Treaty.

New Zealand was pleased, as part of the Vienna Group of Ten, to submit to the 2013 Preparatory Commission for the 2015 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference a working paper on the CTBT which recognised the entry-into-force of the Treaty as being of the utmost urgency. It also urged the maintenance of existing moratoriums on nuclear weapon test explosions and other nuclear explosions in the interim. New Zealand looks forward to further engagement on the CTBT as we prepare for the NPT Review Conference in 2015.

New Zealand also strongly supports the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the CTBT which recognises the Treaty as a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Finally, Mr President, New Zealand thanks former-Executive Secretary Tibor Tóth for his years of dedicated service at the helm of the CTBTO. We welcome Ambassador Lassina Zerbo to this important role and reaffirm our commitment to continue working together to enable the entry-into-force of the Treaty at the soonest possible date.

Thank you.