

Republic of North Macedonia

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Statement

by

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia

H.E. Bujar Osmani

at the

Twelfth Article X1V Conference

in support of the Entry-into-Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test –Ban Treaty

(CTBT)

3 minutes

New York, 23 September 2021

Distinguished Co-Presidents,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to inform that we have aligned to the statement delivered by High Representative Josep Borrell on behalf of the European Union.

At the outset, I congratulate Italy and South Africa for assuming the co-Presidency of the Article XIV Conference and express our full support for their future work and to thank the previous co-presidency - Algeria and Germany.

Furthermore, commend the Executive Secretary and his staff for their continued and tireless efforts in promoting the entry into force of the Treaty, its visibility and universal adherence, as well as strengthening the Treaty’s verification regime. I extend my compliments to Dr. Robert Floyd on his appointment as the Executive Secretary of the CTBT Organisation and wish him every success in carrying out this important duty.

Let me begin by reiterating our firm belief that CTBT represents one of the backbones of the international system of disarmament and non-proliferation, contributing to global peace and security. My country became a state party to the CTBT - 21 years ago and since then we have supported all efforts aimed at making it fully operational, as one of the pillars of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. North Macedonia has demonstrated its commitment to the universalization of the CTBT and has been a staunch advocate of its entry into force. In this light, we warmly welcome the additional signatory and ratifications - thus bringing the Treaty up to 185 signatories, and 170 ratifications.

Furthermore, all states should maintain the existing moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions and other nuclear explosions and refrain from conducting any action contrary to the objectives and purpose of the Treaty.

We are also pleased to note the progress achieved after the establishment of the International Monitoring System (IMS), with the current 337 certified monitoring facilities, the functioning of the state of the art International Data Centre; and the steady progress in on-site inspection capabilities, including through integrated field exercises. We also welcome all efforts for active promotion of the CTBT with civil society and the work of the CTBTO Youth Group. The same goes for the promotion of the possibilities to use the IMS data for civil and scientific activities. Let me also acknowledge the humanitarian benefits from application of the CTBT International Monitoring System in regard to natural disasters and to underline the necessity of sharing the benefits among states.

In closing, let me assure you that my country remains fully committed to fulfilling its obligations arising from the Treaty and to its universal adherence and therefore strongly supports the 2021 Ministerial Declaration.

Thank you.