

**Statement by the Republic of Korea at the  
CTBT Twentieth Anniversary Ministerial Meeting  
13 June 2016**

Mr. Chairman,  
Executive Secretary Zerbo,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor and pleasure to be a part of the 20th anniversary of the CTBT. I remember vividly the historic moment when the treaty was adopted in the UN General Assembly in 1996 where I was attending as a member of the Korean delegation.

The delegations gathered in New York that day had high hopes. When the CTBT was opened for signature, we expected that the vision of a world without nuclear test and eventually nuclear weapons would be realized in not-too-distant future.

And in fact the Treaty has made a meaningful difference in the world over the last twenty years. Its primary achievement is the establishment of a de facto international moratorium on nuclear testing. It has nearly become a universal norm with 183 States having signed the CTBT, including 36 of the 44 Annex II States, and 164 states having already ratified it.

Twenty years have passed and today we have widespread international support for the CTBT and an essentially functioning verification regime, established through its international monitoring system, but without a Treaty. Perhaps

with the success of the norm against nuclear test explosions, we have lost the sense of urgency to convert the de facto moratorium into a legal obligation.

Mr. Chairman,

Whatever the cause, the ramifications of this unfinished business can be felt around the world, but nowhere more acutely than on the Korean Peninsula.

The DPRK is the only country to have conducted nuclear tests in the 21st century not just once but four times. Indeed, it poses a grave threat to international peace and security and seriously undermines the global nonproliferation regime.

As a result of its provocations, the DPRK is isolated from the international community more than ever. Following its disregard of previous Security Council resolutions, the UN Security Council resolution 2270, which is unprecedentedly robust and effective, was adopted in response to the nuclear test of the DPRK of January this year.

However, this resolution is only as effective as its implementation. The international community must take this opportunity to concentrate on the faithful implementation of UNSCR 2270.

Member States of the UN are supporting the implementation of the resolution with tangible achievements made in various fields such as trade, maritime and finance. This momentum must be sustained in order to have the DPRK change its flawed calculus

and abandon its nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

The door to the negotiating table remains open. But dialogue for the sake of dialogue is not the objective. Indeed, the Republic of Korea is determined to break the vicious cycle of dialogue, compensation and provocation. The time has come for the DPRK to demonstrate sincerity on denuclearization. This is the key to a fruitful and mutually beneficial dialogue—not further tests and inflammatory rhetoric.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea is fully committed to the CTBT. It actively participates in international efforts to strengthen the global nuclear nonproliferation regime. It hosted the Nuclear Security Summit in 2012 and the CTBT GEM meeting in Seoul on Jun 2015, and will chair the Nuclear Suppliers Group starting next week and the IAEA Nuclear Security Conference in December. The Republic of Korea will spare no effort to facilitate the Treaty's entry into force and universalization in cooperation with other Member States.

Today we have a great opportunity to rekindle the passion we shared twenty years ago about the need for binding instruments in the field of nonproliferation. As the Executive Secretary often says, many States have said “no” to nuclear testing; now it's time to say “never.” Let's take the remaining steps necessary to make the vision of the CTBT a reality.

Thank you. /END/

