

SERBIA

Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs

Check against deliver.
Mr. B. Filipovic

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While Serbia fully aligns itself with the EU statement, I would like to make few brief remarks in my national capacity.

At the outset, allow me to extend my profound appreciation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania Lazăr Comănescu and the Executive-Secretary Dr. Zerbo, for convening this high level meeting, devoted to the marking of the 20th anniversary since the opening for signature of the CTBT. We see this meeting as a unique opportunity to raise awareness on such an important issue, as is the prohibition of nuclear tests and to enhance political actions to promote prompt ratifications of the Treaty by Annex 2 States, which would turn the CTBT into an acting international legal instrument.

By convening this meeting and through active participation of many high level officials, we all reaffirm the vital importance and urgency of the entry into force of the CTBT.

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is a fundamental international instrument of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation which could play an even more significant role in the future. Unfortunately, CTBT still hasn't entered into force and the Republic of Serbia, as a country which ratified the Treaty in 2004, is aligning itself with other states that are strongly supportive of the activities that will create conditions for its full and effective implementation in the nearest future.

Mr. Chairman,

As a responsible member of international community, Republic of Serbia remains committed to the principles of full and consistent fulfillment of the CTBT obligations and further strengthening of the CTBT regime, especially the implementation of the CTBT Verification regime, which is an effective deterrent to any type of development of nuclear weapons and its proliferation. We also value the contribution of the Article XIV process and its coordinators Japan and Kazakhstan in promoting its entry into force.

In conclusion, we call upon all countries that have not yet signed/ratified the CTBT, to do it. Do not let us wait another 20 years.

Thank You for Your attention.