



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

**STATEMENT
BY**

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at the

**Twelfth Article XIV Conference on facilitating the
Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**

New York, 23 September 2021

Co-Presidents,

Let me congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of this Conference and thank the outgoing Coordinators, Germany and Algeria. Slovenia also warmly welcomes the new Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Dr Robert Floyd and looks forward to working closely with him and the CTBTO Secretariat.

The 25th anniversary of the Treaty is a moment for reflection and ambition. Over the past years, the CTBT evolved into a solid instrument with a truly advanced verification regime, primarily designed to ensure compliance with the Treaty.

At the same time, we must highlight the benefits of data, provided by this system, for research, training and variety of civil and scientific applications. Slovenia remains a strong advocate for the realization of the full potential of these applications, also in the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

While these accomplishments give us confidence, the job is still not finished. We need a Treaty that is legally in force. It is essential that our efforts stay focused on its full implementation, because the international security environment is changing rapidly and the global non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control architecture is under pressure.

Slovenia joins the call on all States, which have not yet done so, to commit to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. This is especially important concerning those countries, whose ratification is needed for the Treaty to take effect.

Pursuing peace and security can only be done through multilateralism, strong global norms and effective institutions to address the challenges we are facing. Slovenia will continue to advocate for the CTBT, including at the upcoming Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Slovenia remains a reliable partner of the CTBTO in its efforts to incentivize young people for directing their careers towards science and technology in service of global peace and security. We will also continue to support activities focused on enhancing the role of women in the work of the Organization.

To conclude: eliminating nuclear weapons testing is an important step towards nuclear disarmament. It is an attainable goal and with joint efforts, the international community will be able to reach it.

Thank you.