



Article XIV Conference Speech: Unfinished Business

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Co-President. The Foreign Ministers of Norway and Panama. Excellencies. Colleagues. Ladies and gentlemen,

First things first. To all the states who've signed and ratified this treaty since the last Article XIV Conference. To the governments and peoples of Somalia - *signed just two weeks ago* - of Dominica, of Equatorial Guinea, of The Gambia, and of Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and Tuvalu:

Our deep, respectful thanks. You've given your voice to this global effort.

To our outgoing co-Presidents of the Article XIV process, South Africa and Italy, you've had a remarkable tenure in our push towards universalisation. Our warm thanks for that.

And our incoming co-presidents, Norway and Panama: thank you for committing to drive this important effort forward.

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The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty opened for signature on 24 September 1996. 27 years ago – almost to the day. The Treaty gave effect to the bold preamble to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: ... *to seek to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time*

'All test explosions ... for all time'. What happened?

In the 50 years leading up to September 1996, there had been some 2000 nuclear explosions. From 24 September 1996 through to today? Less than *one dozen* test events. In our current century, only ONE state has tested a nuclear weapon. Less than *one dozen*. A stunning change. In global policy. In global awareness. In global cooperation.

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1996's science could guarantee to monitor all nuclear explosions, once a global network of monitoring stations had been built. Now? We've built that network. And using far better technology. Seismic and hydroacoustic data, infrasound and radionuclide data streams in from over 300 stations. All around the planet. All the time.

That data gathered by the CTBTO in Vienna is available to the nations of the world. They can use its benefits well beyond nuclear testing. Following whales. Giving tsunami warnings. Recording asteroid strikes.

This CTBTO verification system is a remarkable contribution to humanity. It's a key global asset, unlike any other. It's credible and respected *because it works*. Verification works. Transparency works. We can be proud of it. The Power of Together.

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So the CTBT has brought about a huge change for the better. What's the problem?

There's nothing improvised or temporary about our monitoring network and our CTBTO team. And their first-class professional work. But legally their operation remains 'provisional'. The 1996 Treaty hasn't come into force.

We all know why. The Treaty provides that it enters into force ONLY when ALL the 44 states listed in its Annex 2 have signed and ratified it. 41 of those states have signed. 36 have ratified. So, a full 27 years later, we're still some way short.

What to make of this situation? Diplomatic momentum is in favour of the Treaty. And the values it represents. In the past two years, two more states have signed the Treaty and eight more states have ratified it. 196 states can sign this Treaty. Now only nine states - just nine - haven't signed it.

Let's be honest. Without Entry into Force, without universality, there's a sense of *unfinished business*. We're all here today not just to acknowledge this unfinished business. But to do what we can to move towards getting that business completed.

How best to do that? Let's *make the case*. In our speeches and Op-Eds. In our bilaterals and policy meetings. The case for ending all explosions, for all time. The case for peace. The case for security. The case for cooperation. Loud and clear.

Think how global opinion has shifted far and fast on climate issues. Why not the smaller but still momentous shift in attitudes needed to achieve *both* entry into force and universality for banning nuclear testing?

That's what my team and I are doing. That's what many of you have been doing so strongly. Making the case.

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Just 47 days ago I was in Hiroshima. For the annual ceremony to remember 6 August 1945. In their museum you see things you can't forget.

A child's tiny, charred tricycle, found a kilometre away from the centre of the blast. On that beautiful, calm, summer morning of 6 August 1945, a little boy, just three years old, had been happily riding on that very tricycle. And then ... no more.

The weapons tested after Hiroshima had far more explosive power. Yet now, for the first time in decades, nuclear weapons and the threat they pose, are back in the public spotlight. It's urgent that we reaffirm our shared investment in the CTBT, and its remarkable verification regime.

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Today, I call for finishing our unfinished business. In a spirit of urgent and responsible teamwork.

Annex 2 and any other states who haven't yet ratified the CTBT? Please, revisit it now. Ratification makes sense.

Those states that haven't signed the CTBT? Please, revisit it now. Signing and ratifying make sense.

And possessor states. Please recommit to your moratoria against testing. Clearly and publicly. It makes sense.

Our world is a better, safer place without nuclear weapons test explosions. Let's join forces to keep it that way.

Thank you