

check against delivery

**Statement of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan
Erlan Idrissov at the Ministerial Meeting dedicated to 20th
anniversary since the opening of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-
Ban Treaty for signature**

(Vienna, June 13, 2016)

Mr. Chairman,

Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Dr. Lassina
Zerbo,

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ministers and Ambassadors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to warmly welcome today's participants and express my
sincere appreciation for their contribution to achieving the nuclear test
ban, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

2016 is a special year. It marks 20 years since the Comprehensive
Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was adopted by the United Nations General
Assembly. 2016 also marks 25 years since the Semipalatinsk Test Site
was closed for good.

These two important events are inextricably linked. In closing one of
the world's largest test sites, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan
Nazarbayev made history as the first to legally ban nuclear tests.

It wasn't long before other nuclear test sites followed
Semipalatinsk's lead, allowing for the unique conditions needed to ensure
the ban for nuclear test becoming a global phenomenon.

The day the test site closed – August 29, 1991 – paved the way for
adoption of the CTBT. It is very symbolic that August 29 is recognized by
the UN as the International Day against Nuclear Tests and is now
commemorated across the world annually.

Kazakhstan welcomes the efforts of the Executive Secretary of the
CTBTO Preparatory Commission to generate widespread awareness of
this important date. We also reiterate our immense gratitude to the

countries that have supported the respective UN General Assembly resolution.

Another well-known initiative of Kazakhstan's is The ATOM Project (which stands for *Abolish Testing. Our Mission*). The project is committed to creating global support for final and irrevocable nuclear test ban, while engaging the general public across the world. By telling about the consequences of nuclear weapon tests, it encourages anyone who opposes nuclear weapons to sign an online petition urging governments to permanently abandon nuclear testing and help ensure the CTBT is achieved. We are grateful to those who have so far supported the initiative and urge others to sign the online petition. You can sign today, right here, at this meeting.

At the beginning of this year, President Nazarbayev introduced a new and very important initiative – the Manifesto. "The World. The 21st Century." In this visionary document, President Nazarbayev suggests that the international community develop a holistic action plan to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and, ultimately, of wars. It highlights the need to create sustainable peace; to eliminate military blocs which impede broader international cooperation; to adapt the international disarmament process to new historic conditions; and to ensure fair global competition in international trade, finance, and development.

I am confident that this initiative can guide the international community in achieving our common goals of ensuring a safe world and strengthening the stability of our planet.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

20 years ago a UN General Assembly resolution adopted the CTBT.

20 years is a long period. But the Treaty, which was designed to be a key element of the international security system, has not yet entered into force.

Over the last few years we have seen some progress in the gradual universalization of the Treaty. However, since Indonesia ratified the Treaty in 2012, there still remains eight countries yet to do so.

We believe that the reason the CTBT hasn't entered into force is a lack of political will in the eight Annex 2 states.

We urge these states to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible without any preconditions.

The principle of the nuclear test ban is generally observed. However, we are deeply concerned with the situation around the DPRK's nuclear tests.

North Korea is the only state which continues to test nuclear weapons in the 21st century despite protests and condemnation from the entire international community.

Kazakhstan strongly condemns the actions of the DPRK's leadership, which not only cause serious damage to the efforts of the international community on nuclear disarmament, but also undermine efforts to ensure the CTBT's entrance into force. We call upon Pyongyang to stop this bad practice, renounce nuclear ambitions, and sign and ratify the CTBT as soon as possible.

The Treaty and related efforts have so far proved effective. I am confident that its impact will increase significantly after the CTBT enters into force

Considerable progress has been made in creating and deploying the International Monitoring System (IMS) and certificating new stations. It should be noted that this system, even in its uncompleted state, have helped to identify all nuclear tests conducted by the DPRK, including the most recent in January. All underground nuclear explosions were successfully registered, including by Kazakh stations connected to the IMS.

We should also commend measures taken by the CTBTO on strengthening the verification regime, as well as conducting on-site inspections and field experiments.

Initiatives of Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, Mr. Zerbo, to convene the Youth Group and the Group of Eminent Persons have also helped draw the public's attention to nuclear test ban issues.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As co-coordinators of Article 14, Kazakhstan and Japan conduct consistent work to help facilitate the entry into force of the CTBT. Kazakhstan and Japan adopted a high-level joint statement last October, and this year issued two other statements at the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington and the Open-Ended Working Group in Geneva. We continue our efforts on the Annex 2 and Annex 1 states to make the CTBT universal.

I believe that the meeting of the CTBT Friends held during the UN General Assembly represents an important platform to discuss issues related to the entry into force of the Treaty.

As a nation, we are also taking important steps domestically to ensure the Treaty's entry into force.

This August, Almaty will host the 9th International Conference under the title "Monitoring of nuclear tests and their consequences". The Conference is focused on facilitating the entry into force of the CTBT.

Astana will also host a major international conference commemorating the 25th anniversary since the closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site.

I would like to inform you that Kazakhstan intends to build a radionuclide control and noble-gas station. It will help considerably intensify capacities of the CTBT monitoring system, and it will be our significant contribution to the nuclear test ban process.

In conclusion, I would like to wish all of us success in achieving our common noble goal – prohibition of nuclear tests and building a world free from the nuclear threat.

Thank you for your attention.