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Permanent Mission  
of the Russian  
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**STATEMENT  
BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SERGEY A. RYABKOV**

**AT THE 7<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO  
FORCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY**

**New York, September 23, 2011**

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, let me congratulate you and the representative of (Mexico/Sweden) on the appointment as Co-Chairs of our Forum and express my confidence in the success of the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) under your chairmanship.

Undoubtedly, the early entry into force of the CTBT is an imperative. The fulfillment of this task is long overdue. The Treaty is to become an essential element of the international legal security system and an important part of the non-proliferation and disarmament mechanisms.

The last year became, without exaggeration, a landmark for promoting such an understanding of the CTBT's role in the international community. The importance of its early entry into force has been stated in the collective decisions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, and recorded in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the friends of the CTBT, and reiterated at the high-level meeting on multilateral disarmament during the UN GA session last year. The support for the Treaty has also been expressed in the decisions and final documents of the last two G8 summits in Muskoka and Deauville.

Thus, we can state with satisfaction that a wide international consensus is being formed in support of the CTBT. The prevailing number of States view the security and stability in the world only through generally recognized, collectively elaborated international legal norms. This should inevitably compel countries that still stay aside from the Treaty to reconsider their position.

It is also encouraging that lately there have been positive developments in connection with the CTBT. By now, 182 States have signed the Treaty and 155 of them have already ratified it.

However, we have to admit that 15 years after opening the CTBT for signing, the Treaty has not yet entered into force, and the prospects of its entry into force still remain blurred. It causes legitimate concerns. The future of this Treaty

will in many ways show the readiness of the international community to move towards a noble goal of a nuclear weapon-free world. Therefore, we believe that a special responsibility for the future of the CTBT rests upon the remaining 9 States of the so-called "List of 44" whose signature/ratification is required for the Treaty's entry into force. We call on these States to do it without further delay and any preconditions.

We welcome the repeatedly reiterated intention of the US Government to initiate the CTBT ratification process. We support the statement by the Foreign Minister of Indonesia at the 2010 NPT Review Conference on the beginning of the CTBT ratification process in Jakarta. Undoubtedly, these are the steps in the right direction. Yet, it is high time to translate words into actions. Certainly, this call is also addressed to all other States of the "List of 44", whose ratification of the Treaty is essential for its entry into force.

Speaking from this rostrum as a representative of the NPT State-depositary I would like to call certain States of the Middle East to ratify the CTBT as soon as possible. This would become an important confidence-building measure in the region, and it would contribute to the success of the 2012 Conference on establishing a zone free of WMD and their means of delivery in the Middle East, as one of the priority issues of the international agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

Undoubtedly, all States supporting the CTBT should continue their efforts to promote the Treaty in order to build up the so-called "positive mass" of States that ratified it. Every new ratification of the Treaty is yet another step towards its universalization and early entry into force.

Russia, on its part, is determined to continue supporting the CTBT in multilateral formats; i.e. in the framework of the UN, G8, and during the new NPT review process, at the regional and public political fora. We actively support the CTBT in our bilateral contacts as well.

We would like to draw your attention again to the need for all States to

adhere to the letter and spirit of the Treaty until its entry into force. It is important to observe the nuclear test moratorium during this period. Russia intends to further comply with this commitment, if other nuclear weapon States do likewise.

Mr. Chairman,

Russia supports the efforts of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission to establish a Treaty verification mechanism and actively participates in its work.

Russia is satisfied with the remarkable progress in creating all the elements of the future Treaty verification mechanism, which is the main goal of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission. The progress is obvious – more than two thirds of the International monitoring system (IMS) facilities have been certified. Most of these facilities are fully operational. The preparation is well underway for the second large-scale on-site inspection Integrated field exercise in 2014. Such integrated field exercises are especially important, since they facilitate the process of this key element of the CTBT verification mechanism reaching its operability.

The Russian Federation closely cooperates with the CTBTO Preparatory Commission in establishing the IMS facilities on its territory. We are satisfied with the level and quality of the existing cooperation between Russia and the Commission in the deployment of the Russian IMS segment, 70% of which have already been certified and become operational.

Even in its current unfinished state, the CTBT verification mechanism has more than once demonstrated its viability and efficiency (including during the nuclear tests by DPRK in 2006 and 2009). The verification system of the Treaty has opened wide possibilities for early prevention of global natural and man-made disasters, as well as emergency response to them.

Mr. Chairman,

We hope that our joint efforts will lead to a qualitative shift towards the transformation of the CTBT into an operational international legal instrument.

The Russian delegation supports the Draft Final declaration of the Conference and the measures to promote the entry into force of the CTBT

contained in it. We are ready to participate actively in their implementation.

In conclusion, let me emphasize once again the main point. We hope that that our call upon the respective States to sign and/or ratify the CTBT will be finally heard by them.

Thank you for your attention.