

**STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DELIVERED BY H.E. MARIO MONTEJO  
SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
46<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION OF THE  
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY  
ORGANIZATION  
AND THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN COMMEMORATION OF  
THE  
20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR  
TEST BAN TREATY  
13 JUNE 2016, VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon (*if present*),  
CTBTO Executive Secretary Dr. Lassina Zerbo,  
Romanian Ambassador Cristian Istrate, Chairperson of the Commission  
Officials of the CTBTO Provisional Technical Secretariat,  
Distinguished Excellencies, Ministers and Vice-Ministers, and distinguished  
representatives from the capitals and colleagues from Permanent Missions in  
Vienna

A pleasant Good morning to all.

On behalf of the Philippine Government and the Filipino people, I wish to convey our sincere appreciation to the Commission for this invitation to participate in the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the CTBTO PrepCom and the commemoration of the historic Twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

The Philippines recognizes that 2016 is a significant milestone in the history of CTBT as it marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the Treaty was opened up for signing in 1996. However, the Philippines notes with great concern that the treaty has yet to come to force. The Philippines therefore urges the eight Annex II States that have not yet ratified nor signed the Treaty to summon the political will, and take urgent steps to sign and ratify this important document at the soonest possible time.

We, the CTBT States Signatories, must be unrelenting and vigorous in our efforts to persuade the Annex II States to sign and ratify the Treaty in order to uphold and strengthen the universality of the CTBT. While the CTBTO responds to crises as they arise, the organization's mandate should be legitimized through the signing and ratification of the remaining States so that CTBTO can fulfill its roles and functions effectively and efficiently.

The Philippines has consistently supported the call for early entry into force of the CTBT and has been active in promoting the CTBT through bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.

The Philippines recognizes the critical role of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as a key confidence-building measure to promote cooperation with other States in strengthening the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Its early entry into force will give a critical boost to global efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

The Philippines notes, with great concern, the current security flashpoint posed by the four nuclear tests conducted in 2006, 2009, 2013 and 2016 by the DPRK. To date, DPRK is the only state that has conducted nuclear tests in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We join the international community in condemning any violation of pertinent UN Security Council Resolutions and renew our call on the DPRK to desist from continuing these acts of provocation and abandon all its nuclear weapons programs in the interest of regional and international peace and stability. We further urge the DPRK to join the 183 States Signatories of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The Philippines supports the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks as an effective mechanism for dealing with the DPRK nuclear issue. We call on the DPRK to fully comply with its commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks, as well as its obligations under all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

The Philippines is strongly committed to maintaining international and regional peace and stability, promoting a nuclear weapon-free world and ensuring the country's protection from the threat or use of weapons of mass destruction. Thus, the Philippines' stance on nuclear disarmament is also consistent with and supportive of the third pillar of Philippine Foreign Policy – the protection of Filipino nationals overseas – as many Filipinos live and work in areas where the nuclear threat exists and persists.

In terms of regional security, the Philippines strongly believes that a nuclear weapons free zone (NWFZ) is a vital component in the task of enhancing regional security and reinforcing the NPT-based global nuclear non-proliferation regime. The Philippines will therefore continue to work with its ASEAN partners in pursuing consultations with Nuclear Weapons States to ensure effective implementation of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANFWZ).

Let me take this opportunity to commend the tremendous efforts of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) for the establishment of a comprehensive verification regime. The CTBTO's International Monitoring System (IMS) and the International Data Center (IDC), in particular, have recently provided highly reliable data on the nuclear tests conducted by North Korea last 06 January 2016. The valuable scientific data and analysis prove the efficacy and reliability of CTBTO's verification regime.

Finally, the Philippines commends the dynamism and perseverance of the Commission under the leadership of Executive Secretary Dr. Lassina Zerbo in its relentless pursuit of the vision and objectives of the CTBTO.

As host of three certified monitoring facilities, the Philippines likewise appreciates PTS' technical and financial assistance in the upgrading and maintenance of these facilities. Furthermore, we are thankful for the capacity building and training provided by the PTS to our National Data Center (NDC).

We look forward to a highly productive 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the PrepCpm of the CTBTO and a meaningful commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty this week.

Thank you.

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