

**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
DURING THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE CTBT**

**13 June 2016**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by congratulating you Mr. Chairman, on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Preparatory Commission and expressing our appreciation to the Romanian Chairmanship for the leadership and excellent cooperation at an important time which marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening up for signature of the CTBT. Let me assure you Turkey's [my delegations] full support and cooperation in fulfillment of your important mandate. Allow me also commend Dr. Lassina Zerbo, the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO and his staff for their tireless efforts to prepare this meeting.

The Turkish Delegation aligns itself with the statement of the European Union delivered by H.E. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission as well as with the statement of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) delivered by Germany on behalf of the NPDI. Please allow me to speak in my national capacity to address a few points:

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Turkey considers the CTBT as an important instrument of the global non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime. In our view, a universal and internationally and effectively verifiable cessation of nuclear weapon test explosions and their prohibitions as provided by the CTBT continues to be an indispensable goal for achieving international peace and security.

Even before its entry into force, the CTBT achieved considerable progress and has a remarkable record of accomplishments. The strong moral standard it has already set is unquestionable. It enjoys today a near universal status with 183 signatures and 164 ratifications. However, despite all the progress achieved both at political and technical level, we regret the fact that twenty years after its opening for signature it has yet to enter into force. In this regard, we again urgently call on all States who have not yet done so, in particular the remaining Annex 2 states to sign and ratify the Treaty without any precondition or delay.

The number of the remaining States whose ratification is essential for the Treaty's entry into force is small, yet it is a challenging task. We must take every opportunity to remind those States that they have a moral obligation to turn the moratoria on nuclear test explosions into a binding norm.

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The relevance and the importance of the CTBT's entry into force were once again demonstrated following the fourth nuclear test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in January 2016, which was

strongly condemned by the international community. Moreover, this unfortunate development confirmed that the CTBT verification regime is sound and functioning successfully. It has proven to be a valuable investment that no nuclear test goes undetected.

Distinguished Delegates,

Taking the opportunity of the twentieth anniversary of the opening of the Treaty for signature, this year we have witnessed an enhanced political momentum for its universalization and a series of events to mark this important year and increase awareness among policy makers, civil society, academia, as well as the young generation. In this respect, please allow me to express our gratitude once again to Executive Secretary Zerbo for his tireless efforts and his never ending optimism.

Distinguished Delegates,

In the last twenty years, Turkey honoured her political, financial and technical commitments stemming from the Treaty. Being among the first signatories of the CTBT we are strongly committed to its objectives and fully support the ongoing efforts to its universalization.

As a part of our ongoing support in order to promote an early entry into force of the CTBT, Turkey will host a symposium organized by the Boğaziçi University Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute on 6-7 October 2016, in İstanbul. The event will provide an opportunity to take stock of the ongoing discussions in the margins of the 20th Anniversary activities, with a view to seeking creative solutions to increase the public awareness both at national and

international level about CTBT's role in global non-proliferation regime and examining next steps to be taken to achieve entry into force.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

What we need now is a final collective determination to work together to achieve the universalization of the CTBT which has already proven its success by its accomplishments. Let me conclude by quoting the motto of CTBT's latest billboards, "We must finish what we started".

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.