## BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA Ministarstvo vanjskih poslova



## БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА Министарство иностраних послова

## The Seventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

(Article XIV Conference)

## Statement

By

Ambassador Željko Jerkić, Head of Delegation,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Chairman

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to extend my appreciation to the all delegations and the Provisional Secretariat for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization who worked hard to prepare this meeting. I stay confident that this Conference will remind us again on the danger which nuclear weapons represent and that our deliberations will send a strong message calling for further ratifications and additional adherence in order to facilitate early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

I would like to underline that by establishing global norm against nuclear tests, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty has made a significant contribution to the global efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote nuclear disarmament. Nevertheless, we ail need to invest further efforts in order that this important achievement becomes worldwide norm and that comprehensive ban on nuclear testing becomes reality.

Today, and maybe more than ever, our collective involvement in this struggle is very much needed. Faced with grievous consequences of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear incident and aware of global expectations for concrete and strong measures in order to improve global nuclear safety and security, the strengthening of the international legal instruments for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament inevitably become the priority agenda issue.

Thus, striving for an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is one of the most important tasks for all of us.

Bosnia and Herzegovina fully supports nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament process and strongly promotes its values. During: past two years, since last Article XIV Conference, we were very active in the promotion of the international norms in this field and advocating for a wider adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and its early entry into force.

Therefore, I would like, once again, to express our gratitude to all the member states of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty for their confidence, acknowledging our engagement and commitment and electing Bosnia and Herzegovina to serve in the capacity of the Chair of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization for this year.

Resuming our responsibilities and fulfilling this duty as the Chair, with the professional and expert support of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization for which we are very thankful to the Executive Secretary, ambassador Tibor Toth and his staff, Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to promote global non-proliferation and disarmament and strongly advocate

for early entering into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty arid its further promotion.

In this respect, we welcome progress made towards universalization of the Treaty, and recognize the significance of the ratifications of the Treaty since the 2009 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Today, there are 182 States that have signed and 154 States that have ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Bosnia and Herzegovina urge all remaining States, especially those whose signatures and ratifications are necessary for the entry into force of the Treaty, to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay in order to achieve its early entry into force. We are certain that, against the background of growing momentum towards safer use of nuclear energy and nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, it is of outmost importance to work together to make the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty globally binding and most effective.

Its early entry into force will be the most important step to this aim.

Thank you.