Where should we go from here?
The Final Declaration includes a list of various concrete measures. The key is to maintain momentum and keep the CTBT high on the political agenda. At the global level, we should make use of occasions such as the 2005 NPT review process, where particular importance should be attached to the urgency of the early entry into force of the CTBT and of maintaining a nuclear test moratorium. We should also aim at holding another CTBT Friends ministerial meeting on the occasion of the United Nations General Assembly next autumn. Furthermore, bilaterally and regionally, we should continue to engage ourselves actively in soliciting the remaining 12 Annex 2 countries, perhaps targeting particularly those closer to ratification. To promote further universalization, we should support and encourage international cooperation projects that make use of verification technology, including its application to civil and scientific purposes. Lastly, I strongly hope that the additional measures to be discussed by ratifying States in accordance with the Final Declaration will make a real contribution to the promotion of the early entry into force of the Treaty.

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In the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo, he was responsible for Japan’s policy on Western Europe and on the United Nations (1988-1992). In September 1993, Mr Takasu was appointed Assistant Secretary-General and Controller of the United Nations (UN) in New York, where he was in charge of the budgetary and financial operations of the UN.

Between 1997 and 2000, Mr Takasu served his country as Ambassador to the United Nations, representing Japan in the Security Council from 1997 to 1998. In early 2000, he was appointed Director-General of the Multilateral Cooperation Department in Tokyo, and subsequently, Ambassador in charge of civil society.

“Since Japan is the only country in the world to have suffered the tragedy of atomic bombings, we Japanese people have a particularly strong desire for a ban on nuclear testing. … Our efforts toward the early entry into force of the CTBT have permeated international opinion and the norm has taken root that all types of nuclear tests should be banned. Thus, the CTBT, even before entering into force, is playing an important role as a strong deterrent against nuclear testing. It is important that we ceaselessly and tenaciously persevere in our efforts.”