

**Check upon delivery**

**Statement of H.E. Mr Michael Spindelegger  
Federal Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for European and  
International Affairs, Austria  
at the  
CTBT - Art. XIV Conference  
23 September 2011**

Mr Secretary General,

Mr. Executive Secretary,

Distinguished Co-Presidents,

Dear Colleagues,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to start by congratulating the Co-Presidents Sweden and Mexico for their election. I would also like to commend the out-going Co-Presidents France and Morocco for their Sterling work as Article XIV coordinators up to this Conference.

Reiterating the statement by the European Union, I would like to underline that the past years have indeed born testimony to a renewed momentum in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Despite these positive developments, I very much regret that we still have to gather under the Article XIV procedure:

- It is the seventh time that the majority of the States that have deposited the instruments of ratification have requested the convening of a conference to examine measures to accelerate the process for an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.
- It is the seventh time that foreign ministers of these States get together and have to acknowledge that the entry into force still eludes us.

Nevertheless, during this long time, during these fifteen years that elapsed after the CTBT was opened for signature, we – the ratifying States - have not been idle. Instead, we have managed to create a strong and viable organisation in Vienna that is bracing itself for the entry into force of the Treaty. This shows the strong support for banning all nuclear tests that is underpinned by a solid verification regime.

In these fifteen years, we have also witnessed the positive effects of the establishment of the Preparatory Commission in a number of ways:

- We have seen a dramatically reduced number of nuclear test explosions – the recognised nuclear weapon states had all ceased their testing;
- We have thus had a sound justification for reaching out to numerous countries in view of making the Treaty universal which is a key pillar of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.
- We have also joined our resources. So far, we have built up more than 80% of the International Monitoring System. The verification regime that is required by the time the Treaty enters into force is nearing completion and has already proven its capabilities. Here I am glad to remark that Austria has the first certified radionuclide laboratory of the International Monitoring System in Seibersdorf near Vienna. We will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laboratory next month together with Executive Secretary Tibor Toth.
- We have also been able to demonstrate the benefits of the civil and scientific applications of the verification system. They, unfortunately, have received their tragic recognition through the

positive contributions they made when dealing with natural and man-made disasters like tsunamis and the Fukushima nuclear accident.

Dear co-Presidents,

Austria fully supports the final declaration of the seventh Article XIV Conference. We support the urgent appeals for the universalization of the Treaty and the maintenance of nuclear test stop moratoria pending the entry into force of the CTBT. In this context, I applaud the recent ratification by Guinea, which puts the number of ratifying States at 155 and further underlines the relevance of our message today.

With all our joint endeavours, I am sure we will be able to accelerate progress on the way to create peace in a world without nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.