

**Statement by Dr. János Martonyi
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary
at the Eighth Article XIV Conference
of the Comprehensive Nuclear test-Ban-Treaty
New York, 27 September 2013**

Secretary General,
Madame High Representative,
Executive Secretary,
Distinguished Ministers and Ambassadors,
Dear Friends,

It is a great honour and at the same a pleasure for me to address this conference of such outstanding importance for global security. I would first and foremost like to recall that at an informal meeting of Subscribing States convened by the CTBTO's Secretariat on 21 May 2013, the previous Coordinators – Mexico and Sweden – have proposed Hungary and Indonesia as their successors. Since no objection was expressed, the Hungarian-Indonesian co-presidency has thus assumed its work.

Acting as Article XIV co-president offers great prestige for Hungary and adequately reflects our commitment to the issue of nuclear non-proliferation. In our interaction with the countries, where ratification is still pending both Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa and I are committed to initiating an open and frank reflection process on the issue of the early entry into force of the CTBT, involving decision-makers at the highest political level.

While doing so, particular emphasis should be laid on the dialogue with the eight remaining Annex II countries that have yet to formally endorse the treaty. We will therefore spare no efforts to convince these countries that embracing the CTBT can only enhance their own security and standing.

Convinced that it is necessary not to wait for others but to lead by example, Hungary, being a country whose ratification has been also a precondition for the CTBT's entry into force, was one of the first to do so in 1999.

Another goal of ours is to raise awareness on the verifiability of the CTBT and such membership benefits as access to monitoring data that can be used as well for disaster-mitigation purposes and scientific research.. During the two years of our co-presidency, we will encourage bilateral, regional and multilateral

initiatives by interested countries designed to promote the entry into force of the CTBT.

I am particularly happy that the beginning of our co-presidency is marked by the recent establishment of a group comprising high-profile personalities and internationally recognized experts with a view to supporting and complementing the efforts to promote the Treaty's entry into force. The members of the Group of Eminent Persons will also reinvigorate international endeavors to achieve this goal. As Co-Presidents of the Article XIV Process, we are delighted to be part of this group.

With regard to my country, we are proud that a Hungarian diplomat, Ambassador Tibor Tóth, has steered the organization so competently through the sometimes stormy waters over the past eight years, from August 2005 to July 2013. By expressing at this forum once more my sincere appreciation for his achievements, allow me to wish all the best to his successor, Dr. Lassina Zerbo. I am confident that the Organization remains in most able hands and that during his tenure, the new executive secretary will skillfully combine continuity and new initiatives.

Although there is no monitoring station on Hungarian territory, the cooperation between the Hungarian Atomic Energy Agency as National Contact Point and the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO is very active. Due to these excellent relations, Hungary has participated at the organization of a number of On-site Inspection trainings. Most recently in July 2013, we hosted the largest and longest Build-Up Exercise as part of the preparations for the Integrated Field Exercise to be held next year in Jordan. In this regard, it is another important argument to be made at the Article XIV process that without the CTBT's entry into force, the international community deprives itself of the powerful verification measure of on-site inspections.

As the Article XIV co-president from the northern hemisphere, representing a Member State of the European Union and of NATO, let me highlight a few facts in this context: EU Member States have lobbied hard for entry into force since the very beginning. They contribute around 40 percent of the organization's budget and have provided over €15 million in voluntary contributions. NATO has also been laying great emphasis on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation as a means to promote security. When Hungary hosted the 2012 NATO Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction, Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, I highlighted the CTBTO's role in these fields.

To conclude, we welcome the advances made by the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO in building the Treaty's verification regime. We note that the substantial progress in strengthening this regime is being increasingly recognized by members of the scientific community, including in states that have yet to ratify. We reaffirm our commitment to supporting the completion of the verification regime and urge all States Signatories to do likewise.

Let me welcome the very recent ratifications by Guinea Bissau and Iraq. With 183 signatures and 161 ratifications as of today, the CTBT has achieved nearly universal adherence. We appeal to all States to make their utmost effort to achieve the entry into force of the CTBT at the earliest possible date. Taking the lead of the Article XIV process during the two years ahead, along with Indonesia, we will dedicate ourselves individually and jointly to realizing this goal.