



Statement delivered on behalf of the European Union

by

H.E. Ms Federica Mogherini

**High Representative of the European Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice President of the European Commission**

at the

**Ninth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

United Nations

New York

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- As delivered -

Distinguished Co-Presidents, Excellencies, friends,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Georgia and Monaco, align themselves with this statement.

2. The European Union would like to congratulate you, Mr Co-Presidents, on the assumption of the Presidency of the ninth session of the Article XIV Conference. Let me assure you of the European Union's full support and cooperation in fulfilment of your important mandate. We would also like to express our great appreciation for the work carried out by Hungary and Indonesia as previous Article XIV Coordinators. We would also like to commend Dr Lassina Zerbo, the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO and his staff for their tireless work in promoting the entry into force and universalisation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. In the year of the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings it is as important as ever that we work together towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. Since its opening for signature 19 years ago, 183 countries have signed and 164 have ratified the CTBT, underlining the strong international support for this Treaty and its goals. We welcome the fact that Cuba for the first time participated at the June session of the Preparatory Commission as an observer in the CTBTO. The EU sees this as a first step towards the signature and ratification of the Treaty by Cuba.

4. While these positive developments are welcome, we regret that almost twenty years after the opening of the CTBT for signature it has yet to enter into force. The EU is pleased that at the NPT 2015 Review Conference the CTBT was widely recognised as a core element of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We hope that this profound support can serve as a good basis for progressing towards the entry into force of the Treaty. The EU calls on all States who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Treaty without any preconditions or delay, in particular the remaining 8 Annex II States, whose ratification is essential for the Treaty's entry into force. The cessation of all nuclear weapon test explosions and all other nuclear explosions, by constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, constitutes an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects.

5. The relevance and the importance of the Treaty's entry into force were clearly demonstrated following the nuclear tests carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 2006, 2009 and 2013, which were strongly condemned by the international community. The EU remains deeply concerned that the DPRK has threatened a fourth nuclear test and calls on the DPRK to refrain from any further provocative action, as well as to sign and ratify the CTBT without delay.

* *The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

6. Pending the entry into force of the CTBT, the voluntary moratoria on nuclear test explosions represent a de facto international norm. The EU calls upon all States to respect this norm and to refrain from any action that would undermine the objective and purpose of the Treaty.

Mr Co-Presidents,

7. A crucial element of the CTBT is the International Monitoring System, which supports an effective, reliable, participatory and non-discriminatory verification regime with a global reach. We strongly commend the progress achieved in the build-up of the verification regime and encourage the continuation of work to this end. The system's value is not only in meeting the mandate of the CTBTO to ensure effective verification of compliance with the Treaty, but also in providing beneficial civilian applications, such as in support of tsunami warning or to monitor emissions from radiological accidents.

8. The international scientific and research community working in the field of CTBT and its applications is an important partner in promoting the Treaty's goals and objectives. The involvement of this community, supported by the EU, allows us all to take advantage of existing incentives which could encourage the entry into force of the Treaty and the universalisation of the CTBT.

Mr Co-Presidents,

9. All EU Member States have signed and ratified the CTBT. The EU continues to offer its strong support for the entry into force and universalisation of the CTBT and the credibility of its verification regime, and works actively with the Provisional Technical Secretariat and all interested states to this end. Since 2006 the European Union has provided over 15 million euros in financial contributions through EU Joint Actions and Council Decisions for capacity building, advancement of the verification regime, understanding of background radiological emissions and to assist the activities of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission. The EU is currently working on further financial assistance to the Organisation beyond 2015.

Finally Mr Co-Presidents,

10. At this final Article XIV Conference before the 20th anniversary of the CTBT, it is crucial to act collectively and resolutely to move the CTBT's entry into force ahead. The EU, therefore, calls on all States Signatories to the Treaty to actively support the Article XIV Conference of the CTBT and the goals of the Treaty at the highest level, and urges everyone to do their utmost to bring the CTBT into force.

Thank you, Mr Co-Presidents.