During the Treaty negotiations, the entry into force provision proved to be a politically challenging task. As the final formula, the decision was made that the Treaty must be signed and ratified by 44 States known as Annex 2 States that possessed nuclear power or research reactors. This clause has become the final hurdle that the CTBT needs to overcome. There remain eight Annex 2 States (China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, and the United States) that must ratify the Treaty before the nuclear test ban can become global law.

The CTBT contains a special mechanism to promote its entry into force – a conference designed to facilitate this objective takes place biennially. While its official designation is the Conference on Facilitating Entry into Force of the CTBT, it is more commonly known as the Article XIV conference in accordance with the relevant Treaty article. The ninth Article XIV conference took place at the United Nations, New York, in 2015, and was presided over by Erlan Idrissov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, and Fumio Kishida, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

One hundred eighty-three States so far have signed the Treaty, and 164 have ratified it, out of a total of 196 States. As of May 2016, the most recent States to sign and ratify are Niue and Angola respectively. “The long-term effects from nuclear testing, such as the Castle Bravo H-bomb test in the Marshall Islands 60 years ago, continue to haunt the lives of our fellow islanders. All forms of nuclear testing need to be outlawed to protect future generations in the Pacific and elsewhere”, said Prime Minister of Niue, Toke Tufukia Talagi, upon signing. Unfortunately, with the continued absence of the eight Annex 2 countries’ ratifications, the Treaty awaits its entry into force.
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»After more than five decades of talks, it is time for the testing of nuclear weapons to finally be banned.«

BARACK OBAMA
44th President of the United States (2009)

»This treaty was a great victory for international diplomacy at the time and showed just how effective such diplomacy can be at resolving the greatest challenges to global security.«

VLADIMIR PUTIN
President of the Russian Federation (2016)