

Joint Appeal by Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
Vienna, 5 July 2018

1. We, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Executive Secretary of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) Organization, reaffirm the importance of the CTBT as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation regime.
2. We note with satisfaction the maturity of and progress achieved in the establishment of the International Monitoring System (IMS), which currently has 295 certified facilities, and the satisfactory functioning of the International Data Centre (IDC).
3. Noting the progress made in numbers of signature and ratification, with signature by 183 States and ratification by 166 States to date, we call for further concrete and actionable steps towards early entry into force of the treaty as well as its universalization. In this regard, we urge the remaining Annex 2 States to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay.
4. We acknowledge that the CTBT verification regime is functioning and effective as designated by the Treaty, as is clearly shown in the detection of the six nuclear tests by North Korea, and reaffirm our commitment to the further build-up of all elements of the verification regime.
5. It is required in relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions that North Korea achieve complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of all nuclear weapons. In support of the international efforts, we reiterate our call for North Korea to sign and ratify the CTBT.