



AUSTRALIA



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The Seventh CTBT Ministerial Meeting

Friday 26 September, 2014

**Harinder Sidhu
First Assistant Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am pleased to make some brief remarks on behalf of the Australian Government in our capacity as one of the Friends of the CTBT.

Today's speakers and assembled delegates have demonstrated the strong international will against nuclear testing. The Joint Ministerial Statement we have just adopted is also testament to this.

Australia appreciates Foreign Minister Kishida chairing this important meeting today and wishes to acknowledge all States represented here for their ongoing support for the CTBT and their efforts to achieve entry into force.

Australia would particularly like to congratulate Iraq and the Republic of Congo – speakers here today - along with Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Guinea-Bissau and Niue for recently ratifying the treaty.

Each new ratification helps strengthen international efforts to promote a universal CTBT. Each new ratification also sends a message to countries such as the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which continue to conduct tests, that their actions are unacceptable to the international community.

Pressure must continue to be applied to countries involved in or considering nuclear testing. Australia urges all states yet to ratify the Treaty to do so at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you.