

7th Ministerial Meeting of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in New York

Friday 26 September 2014, New York

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is my pleasure to present the 7th Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The statement reaffirms our commitment to the CTBT and its role as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.
- I welcome the fact that CTBT has achieved near universal adherence with signature by 183 States and ratification by 163 States as of today. This is a testimony of the importance of the Treaty and shows that states all over the globe are committed in putting an end to nuclear tests.
- But there is still work to do. Finland calls upon all States that have not yet signed and ratified the CTBT to do so without further delay. I address my words in particular to the eight remaining Annex 2 States, whose signatures and ratifications are necessary for the Treaty's entry into force.
- We value the contribution of the Article XIV process and its coordinators Hungary and Indonesia, the CTBTO, as well as the Group of Eminent Persons, in promoting the entry into force.
- The near universal voluntary moratorium on nuclear weapon tests is of great importance, but it cannot substitute a legally binding global ban. It is time to close the door on nuclear weapon tests once and for all.
- I am very pleased that the joint ministerial statement has again received broad support and so many states have associated themselves with the statement. This proves that our efforts are bearing fruit. Let's work together and get this Treaty across the finish line.