

Постоянное Представительство
Российской Федерации
при ООН в Нью-Йорке



Permanent Mission
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations in New York

STATEMENT

**by Deputy Director of the Department for Nonproliferation and Arms Control
of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
Mr. Alexey Yu. Karpov**

**at the 7th Meeting of the States-“Friends” of the Comprehensive Nuclear
Test Ban Treaty,
New York, 26 September, 2014**

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Mr. Chairman,

The earliest entry into force of CTBT is undoubtedly our priority and the imperative of nowadays. The Treaty is destined to become an essential element of the international legal security system and an important link in the chain of other non-proliferation and disarmament instruments.

We can state with satisfaction that wide international consensus is being formed in support of the CTBT. Recently there has been a certain positive dynamics around the Treaty. We welcome the ratification of the Treaty by Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Guinea- Bissau, Iraq, Niue and Republic of Congo since our last meeting in September 2012. So far 183 states have signed and 163 states ratified the Treaty. Thus, one more resolute step has been made towards the CTBT becoming an effective international legal instrument.

However, one must admit that almost 20 years since the opening of the CTBT for signature the prospects of a full scale launching of the Treaty's regime still remain blurred, which gives all reasons for concern. We believe, that the remaining 8 States of the "List of 44", who deter its entry into force, bear the main responsibility for the future of the CTBT. We call upon them to join the Treaty as soon as possible and without any preconditions.

In this regard, we note the words of the U.S. Secretary of State J.Kerry on the continuation of an active and serious work in favor of the Treaty's ratification. We hope that this important statement will soon be transformed into concrete actions. We understand all difficulties connected with the ratification process in the U.S. However, we believe, that one should not continue postponing the issue in order "to match" "the best suitable conditions" for ratification. As experience shows, there are practically no such "ideal" conditions for important decisions to be taken.

Using this tribune, we would also like to call certain States of the Middle East to ratify the CTBT as soon as possible. It would become an important confidence building measure and would contribute to the process of establishing there a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

We call on all countries, on whom the destiny of CTBT depends, not "to look

back" at each other, but to take their own responsible decisions in the interest of strengthening nuclear nonproliferation regime and international peace and security.

We, for our part, are determined to continue to support the CTBT within the international frameworks: in the United Nations, during the closing regular NPT review process, at the regional forums. We actively advocate the CTBT through our bilateral contacts as well.

We would like to draw Your attention to the need for all States to adhere to the letter and spirit of the Treaty before its entry into force. It is essential that within this period the nuclear test moratorium is observed. Russia intends to further comply with this commitment, if other nuclear weapon States do likewise.

Mr.Chairman,

Our country supports the efforts of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission to establish a Treaty verification mechanism and actively participates in this work. We can state significant progress in this field. Even being unfinished, the CTBT verification mechanism has more than once demonstrated its viability, efficiency, as well as usefulness for civil purposes. In particular, we would like to mention an active preparation for the second large scale integrated field exercise on the on-site inspections, which is to be held in Jordan in November this year.

We would like to assure once again the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, Dr. L.Zerbo, that Russia is determined to continue its support to the multidimensional activity of the Commission under his leadership. Russia welcomes Dr.Zerbo's initiative to create a "Group of Eminent Persons" aimed to advocate the CTBT. From the Russian part, the former Foreign minister I.Ivanov, a competent politician and public figure, was included in this Group. We do hope that the Group's activity would significantly contribute to our common efforts aimed at turning the Treaty into an acting international legal instrument.

In conclusion, once again, we call on all the States who has not signed/ratified the CTBT, to do it without delay and preconditions.

Russia supports the draft Joint Ministerial Statement on the CTBT and is one of its cosponsors.

Thank You for Your attention.