

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic**  
**at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-**  
**Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**  
**New York, 24-25 September 2009**

Slovakia would like to congratulate France and Morocco on their election as Co-Presidents of this Conference. We wish them every success and pledge our support for carrying out their responsible duties in furthering the facilitation of entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Our thanks also go to Austria and Costa Rica who served as coordinators of the process in the preceding period. Simultaneously, we commend the UN Secretary-General, as depositary of the Treaty, for convening this Conference.

Slovakia fully associates itself with the statement delivered by Sweden on behalf of the European Union. At the same time, we would also like to make a few national comments on this important occasion.

Slovakia recognizes the CTBT as a crucial instrument of the non-proliferation regime which is essential for maintaining and strengthening global security. The total of 149 States that have ratified the Treaty to date represents a notable success and it is an important step towards its entry into force.

Nevertheless, we have to stay the course. Slovakia calls on all States, and especially the remaining Annex II countries, that have not ratified the CTBT to do so without delay.

In this connection, we welcome the renewed commitment of the United States administration to pursue ratification of the Treaty. This creates an important momentum that should be carried on. Here we also recognize the encouraging signs that some countries whose ratification is critical might soon follow suit. We invite the others to join in doing so.

Mr. President

We condemn the nuclear test announced by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in May 2009. It has constituted a grave violation of the non-proliferation regime and threat to international peace and security. On the other hand, it also demonstrated the urgent need for putting the CTBTO and its full verification regime in place.

Slovakia recognizes the central role of the CTBT verification regime as well as that of its various components for securing the attainment of the treaty's objectives. In this respect, we would like to bring to the attention of the Conference our continued contribution to the building of the verification regime, particularly through hosting various CTBTO exercises in our territory. Here we are pleased to confirm that an On-Site Inspection Noble Gas Field Operations Test (NG09) will take place in Slovakia this October. The exercise will provide for a valuable opportunity to evaluate under field conditions the suitability of several mobile noble gas measurement systems and corresponding auxiliary and support equipment for the conduct of measurements in the course of an OSI and to test and provide for input towards further development of related standard operating procedures.

Over all, as regards bringing the nuclear-test-ban verification regime into preparedness and operation, Slovakia highly commends the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) led by Mr. Tibor Tóth. You can rely on our continued support Mr. Executive Secretary.

Slovakia attaches great importance to this sixth Article XIV Conference. We are confident that besides sending out an unequivocal message on our determination to bring the CTBT and its noble goals into effect, it will also provide for the mobilization of our common effort which is so vital at this particular juncture in the life of the Treaty. Slovakia stands ready to partake in this responsibility and further participate actively in our shared endeavour.

Thank you.