



Republic of North Macedonia

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Statement

by

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia

H.E. Nikola Dimitrov

at the

2019 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Test Ban
Treaty (CTBT)

New York, 25 September 2019

Distinguished Co-Presidents,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking the previous and current Article XIV Presidency, the Executive Secretary and his staff for the work done to bring us here and for their continued and tireless efforts in promoting the entry into force of the Treaty, its visibility and universal adherence, as well as strengthening the Treaty's verification regime.

At the onset, I would like to reiterate our firm belief that CTBT represents one of the backbones of the international system of disarmament and non-proliferation, contributing to global peace and security. North Macedonia has demonstrated its commitment to the CTBT with the swift ratification 19 years ago and since then have been a staunch advocate of its entry into force. In this light, we warmly welcome the additional signatory - Tuvalu, and the ratifications by Thailand and Zimbabwe. These bring the Treaty up to 184 signatories, 168 of whom have ratified it.

Irrespective of the success, there is no place for complacency. In that regard, we call upon all states, especially the remaining eight Annex 2 States, whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the Treaty, to demonstrate their ultimate political will and sign and ratify it. Hence we welcome all efforts to engage these States, as observers, in future sessions of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission.

We strongly believe that positive examples by nuclear weapon states will have beneficial impact on the universal ratification of the Treaty. Furthermore, all states should maintain the existing moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions and other nuclear explosions and refrain from conducting any action contrary to the objectives and purpose of the Treaty.

In this regard, we urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to act credibly upon its statement concerning moratorium on nuclear tests and invite them once again to sign and ratify the CTBT. We support full implementation of all relevant UNSC resolutions and complete irreversible denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, which is verifiable and achieved in a peaceful manner.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are pleased note the progress achieved in the establishment of the International Monitoring System (IMS), with the current 298 certified facilities, the functioning of the International Data Centre (DC); and the steady progress in on-site inspection capabilities, including through integrated field exercises.

We also welcome all efforts for active promotion of the CTBT with civil society and welcome the work of the CTBTO Youth Group. The same goes for the promotion of the possibilities to use the IMS data for civil and scientific activities.

In closing, let me reiterate that the Republic of North Macedonia remains committed to fulfilling the obligations arising from the treaty and to its universal adherence.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.