

## STATEMENT

By H.E. Mr. Dimiter Tzantchev

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### AT THE SEVENTH CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY

New York, 23 September 2011

*Madame President [Mister President],  
[Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon],  
Executive Secretary Tibor Tóth,  
Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,*

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Mexico and Sweden in the Presidency of this important Conference. I would also like to express our appreciation for the work and efforts of previous Article XIV coordinators France and Morocco..

Bulgarian delegation fully aligns itself with the statement on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I would like to emphasize some points of particular importance for my country.

*Madame President [Mister President],*

We are glad to note the 15-th anniversary tomorrow of the opening of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty for signature. The growing number of Signatory States testifies that the ban of all nuclear explosions in all environments for all times is already a globally recognized international norm of responsible behavior.

We appreciate the determination of the nuclear-weapon States to abide by their respective moratoriums on nuclear test explosions. These unilateral measures need, however, to be replaced as soon as practically possible by a legally binding and verifiable prohibition in force for all. This would further strengthen the crucial role of the CTB Treaty for the viability of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and for nuclear disarmament. The Treaty remains a cornerstone of this long-term process. Its entry into force is an essential measure of the Action Plan of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which is being implemented.

Bulgaria strongly supports the shared objective of bringing the remaining Annex 2 States into the fold of those that have ratified the Treaty. My country joins the call upon all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT without further delay. We wish to further emphasize the importance for all States to refrain from any action that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty pending its entry into force.

We all also need to promote the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty. This in itself could stimulate further progress towards entry into force of the Treaty by focusing – on a universal basis - on the central task of securing all Annex 2 States ratifications.

*Madame President [Mister President],*

I am glad to note the progress made by the CTBTO Preparatory Commission and its Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) in developing the International Monitoring System (IMS) of the Treaty. Its network now encompasses 270 certified facilities, which are being successfully operated and tested on a provisional basis as mandated.

We consider the operational readiness of the CTBT verification regime as an important element towards achieving the goals of the Treaty. Bulgaria remains confident of verification regime's future ability to provide the international community with an independent, reliable and cost-effective means of verifying and deterring any violation of the Treaty's provisions.

The importance and value of the International Monitoring System (IMS) should be considered not only in relation to the CTBT mandate but also in other applications for civilian purposes, including its role in tsunami warning and other disaster alert systems.

The most recent manifestation of the IMS potential to provide life-saving tsunami warnings and data assisting disaster mitigation operations was proved in connection with the Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan. We commend the Preparatory Commission for the timely information provided to all Signatory States and international organizations to this end.

The CTBT network of radionuclide stations played a key international role in detecting and tracing the atmospheric movement of radionuclide particles released, thus contributing to global nuclear safety.

We note the 2011 Science and Technology Conference in Vienna which provided further opportunities for strengthening the cooperation between the Commission and the nuclear scientific community and facilitated the review of the performance of the four verification technologies.

*Madame President [Mister President],*

We are also confident that it is a critical time for the Treaty and we need to spend no efforts in support the early CTBT entry into force.

I would like to welcome the adoption of the Final Declaration of this Conference. The measures outlined there would promote and further strengthen the steady progress of the international community towards entry into force of the CTB Treaty.

I wish the new Article XIV Coordinators success in implementing their mandate by helping all of us move this process a step closer to the final goal of a world free of nuclear tests and nuclear weapons.

*Thank you!*