

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**CTBT 20th Anniversary Meeting
June 13, 2016**

**Statement by H.E. Anu Laamanen
Permanent Representative on Finland to the CTBTO**

Your Excellencies,

Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking the Executive Director, Romania as the Chair of the Preparatory Commission as well as the Article XIV Coordinators Japan and Kazakhstan, for convening this meeting which is timely, important, and necessary: twenty years have passed but the CTBT is yet to enter into force.

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a core element of the international non-proliferation and disarmament regime. Non-proliferation and disarmament are essential objectives. They are also vital for building international security and mutual trust. One of the most important developments in this regard is the voluntary moratorium on nuclear weapon tests that is nearly universal. I consider this has happened because the Treaty has existed.

It is a fact, however, that moratorium does not and cannot substitute a legally binding nuclear test ban treaty, and entering into force of the Treaty is and remains our ultimate goal. I believe, however, that the moratorium has been and is a phase that could make it easier to certain states to commit themselves to a permanent and legally binding Treaty.

When taking stock of the past years, we should neither forget the vast progress made as regards to the verification system. By signing and ratifying the Treaty we have committed ourselves to construct a verification system that will be fully operational by the time that the Treaty enters into force. We still have work to do but today nobody should have doubts about the system working as it should when it is needed. This was, unfortunately, proven to be true in January, when the DPRK announced that it had conducted a nuclear test. While strongly condemning the recurring violations of the international law and commitments by the DPRK, it is worth commending the International Monitoring System that functioned reliably and effectively. The CTBT verification system is an important vehicle that helps us in verifying illegal actions taken by the DPRK.

Finland is proud to host one of the primary stations of the International Monitoring System. This system has proved to be very useful not only in the cases we, unfortunately, have to had witnessed in the previous months, but also in the civilian sector. Since May 2000 Finland is hosting two IMS facilities, an IMS-station in Lahti and a radionuclide laboratory in Helsinki. Finland was the 11th state signatory to sign a facility arrangement with the CTBTO.

As we all know, and as also this event reminds us, there is still work to do. Once again we urge all those States that have not yet ratified the Treaty, to do it as soon as possible. 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.

Finland, also as one of the "Friends of the CTBT" countries, is fully committed in promoting the Treaty. In this context, I would like to thank also the PTS personnel, whom we know to be dedicated people and worked full time to advance the Treaty. You can count on Finland's full support in your work.

I would like to conclude by challenging us all by echoing Executive Secretary Zerbo: "Let's finish what we started!"

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.