

Statement on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Latvia

delivered by H.E. Mr Bahtijors Hasans

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia

**Ministerial Meeting on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**

Vienna, 13 June 2016

Mr Chairman,

Latvia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice-President of the European Commission H.E. Federica Mogherini on behalf of the European Union. I would like to make the following brief remarks in a national capacity

Latvia would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO and all organizers for convening this event.

The CTBT is an indispensable tool in our efforts to stop the spread and further development of nuclear weapons, and eventually bringing us closer to our ultimate goal – a world without nuclear weapons. The entry into force of the Treaty is not only a political imperative, but also a direct contribution to strengthening international peace and security.

Today we mark the 20th anniversary since CTBT was opened for signature. While a moratorium on nuclear testing has become a de facto international norm, we continue to urge states that have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty. Voluntary national moratoriums, while appreciated by Latvia, cannot substitute a legal ban of nuclear tests, as they can be unilaterally revoked at any time.

We value the continuous perfection of the CTBT's verification regime. We remain confident of the verification regime's future ability to provide the international community with reliable means of verifying and deterring any violation of the Treaty's provisions.

Thank you.