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CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARTIN FRICK

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Co-Presidents,

At the outset, allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to the Presidency of this seventh Article XIV Conference of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and thank the Secretary-General for convening it. When my Foreign Minister stood at this podium two years ago, she was able to speak of a "reinvigorated debate on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament." This new spirit not only led to a successful sixth Article XVI Conference, but less than one year later also, to the great relief of the international community, to a successful Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. While the debate on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation has certainly not lost in vigor since, I fear the optimism that imbued our discussions then has abated.

A small State without armed forces like Liechtenstein looks to strong international legal norms in the field of disarmament for protection. This is why we signed and ratified the CTBT and this is why today we renew our call to all remaining non-States Parties to ratify the treaty. We are somewhat disquieted that the positive noises made by some Annex-2 States in past years have not led to additional ratifications and urge those States who, by virtue of their inclusion in

Annex 2 of the Treaty, hold the key to its entry into force to take positive steps towards ratification.

I agree with those distinguished speakers before me who have called for renewed efforts towards achieving the entry into force of this treaty. Nevertheless, we must also acknowledge that the lack of progress in this regard is to some degree an expression of the impasse in the wider field of multilateral disarmament, where the ambitions of the majority continue to be frustrated by a small number of States.

While we commend those Nuclear Weapons States that have not yet become party to the Treaty on maintaining *de facto* moratoria on the testing of nuclear weapons, we also note that these cannot be a permanent substitute to a *de jure* commitment never to test nuclear weapons again. Becoming party to the treaty, moreover, constitutes an important confidence-building measure on a topic where mutual confidence is in precious short supply.

Before concluding, I cannot but note the link between this Conference, and the high-level meeting on nuclear safety yesterday. The tragic nuclear disaster in Fukushima demonstrated once again that the CTBTO Preparatory Commission's international monitoring system works and thus illustrated the use of this organization in civilian nuclear safety. Timely data provided by the CTBTO allowed for the issuance of tsunami warnings and the tracking of nuclear particles emitted by the Daichi nuclear power plant.

Constrained though we are by political realities, I am hopeful that by working together, we will be able to take substantial steps towards the entry into force of this most important treaty by the time of the eighth Article XIV Conference.

I thank you.