

STATEMENT BY H.E MR. ZANDANSHATAR GOMBOJAV,
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF MONGOLIA, AT THE
CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING OF THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR- TEST-BAN TREATY (Art. XIV)

(New York, 23 September 2011)

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

First of all allow me to congratulate Trinidad Tobago, Guinea and other countries that have joined the CTBTO family so as contribute to the common efforts to restrict nuclear weapon testing and proliferation, promote nuclear disarmament and promote peaceful uses of science and technology for the benefit of peoples. As of today 182 countries have signed the CTBT, of which 155, including Mongolia, have ratified it. Of the annex 2 countries, 35 have ratified the Treaty, bringing the membership even closer to universality. It is the hope that the remaining outstanding annex 2 states will soon ratify the convention and thus trigger the entry into force mechanism. I would also like to commend the CTBT Preparatory Commission, the two Working groups and other subsidiary bodies for their work in making sure that the CTBTO would be fully functional when the Treaty enters into force.

The states parties to the Convention, the Preparatory Commission and the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) have been working hard not only in taking steps to make the CTBTO fully functional when it enters into force, but also to promote a wider ratification of the Treaty. As Executive Secretary Tibor Toth has once pointed out, the treaty's virtue is that the whole is more than the sum of its parts. It is impossible to imagine progress in non-proliferation and disarmament without the CTBTO.

As a country dedicated to promoting the goals of non-proliferation, last year Mongolia organized together with the CTBTO PTS a regional conference to raise awareness of the importance of early entry into force of the Treaty among Asian countries. Based on that experience Mongolia is prepared to host additional regional conferences as well as showcase its seismic, infrasound and radionuclide stations that could also be used in addressing some national scientific research objectives.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia, as mentioned above, is committed not only to promoting nuclear non-proliferation but also in making broader use of the scientific and technical achievements in earth sciences and advanced technology that could be applied for peaceful and constructive purposes. Hence it supports broader use of the advances in science and technology relevant to test ban verification and, in general, of scientific applications of the CTBT verification infrastructure for the benefit of member states, especially developing states. In this connection we are looking forward to making wider use of the established network to promote our cooperation with other countries that are advanced in this area as well as to establish an open and tailor-made cooperation with the Organization.

Today, there are 321 monitoring stations and 16 radionuclide laboratories that measure seismic, ultrasound and aquatic infrasound and atmospheric radioactive changes to be caused by nuclear testing. This monitoring system inspects not only nuclear testing, but can also be used in peaceful scientific applications. As the activities of the CTBT Preparatory Commission and the PTS demonstrate, the established global CTBT infrastructure can be used for risk assessment of the climate change and natural disasters. The scientific fora organized with the participation of the CTBT Preparatory Commission and the PTS demonstrate the unlimited possibilities to learn about the Earth and how to work for better use and management of the resources and forces of nature.

Immediately after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident, the CTBTO has provided in real time to member states, the IAEA and the international community very useful monitoring data and analysis of the situation that were useful for planning adequate emergency response. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTS and CTBTO experts for their timely responses and

realistic assessment of the evolving situation. The Fukushima nuclear accident has demonstrated that the global monitoring system of the CTBTO has become a vital element in monitoring changes. Perhaps it will also become indispensable in forecasting some changes in the future. The Memorandum of Understanding signed last year between the Preparatory Commission CTBT and the UNESCO is a promising example of possible broader utilization of the emerging ~~global~~ ^{global} monitoring system, including future tsunami warning.

Finally, Mongolia calls for immediate ratification of the Treaty by the hold-out states. ~~That is why it fully supports the draft document to be adopted at the end of this Conference.~~

Thank you.