



# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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## Statement

by

**H.E. Mr. Kim Bong-hyun**

**Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

**Republic of Korea**

at

**the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the**

**Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

**23 September 2011**

**New York**

Mr. Presidents,

At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the Presidents of this Conference. I would like to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support for the success of this conference. We are confident that under your outstanding leadership, our deliberations shall be guided to a productive conclusion. We are grateful to the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for convening this conference and also to the Executive Secretary Tibor Tóth of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO for the excellent preparations made so far.

Presidents,

The decades of effort to end nuclear weapons testing which culminated in the CTBT were inspired by a vision of a safer and more secure world free of nuclear weapons. The Final Declaration we adopted earlier this morning reaffirmed that both this vision and the Treaty are as important as ever. Ratifying States, together with other States Signatories, declare that the entry into force of the CTBT is a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and that the ending of nuclear testing is a significant step towards the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. I believe that the consensus on the Final Declaration reflects the robust political support for the CTBT and its objectives.

We have witnessed growing political momentum in support of the entry into force of the CTBT since the last Article XIV(fourteen) Conference in 2009. On a number of occasions, the international community has demonstrated its will to see the Treaty enter into force. Resolutions and documents at each regular session of the UN General Assembly, the Security Council Summit on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament in September 2009, and the NPT Review Conference in May 2010, to name just a few, are clear evidence of broad international support.

Strong support is also apparent at the national level. Some of the governments of Annex 2 countries have announced their intention to pursue ratification of the Treaty. States Signatories are also providing substantial support to treaty-related promotional and technical activities as evidenced by near 100 percent collection rates of assessed contributions by Member States of the Preparatory Commission and increasing voluntary contributions.

We have also witnessed significant progress on the technical front, namely the CTBT verification regime. In the last fifteen years there have been remarkable advances in science and technology relevant to CTBT verification. The International Monitoring System is nearing completion and its operational capability has already been demonstrated. For instance, the nuclear explosions conducted by the DPRK, in clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions and other obligations, have shown that the verification regime is capable of performing in a timely and effective manner. In addition to providing States Signatories with the confidence that compliance with the Treaty can be monitored upon its entry into force, the verification system has proven its tangible value to humankind, most recently in the context of the natural disaster and ensuing nuclear accident at Fukushima by providing useful information.

Against this backdrop, it is clear that the CTBT has both political and practical value for the international community. Today, fifteen years since the Treaty was opened for signature here in New York, the CTBT enjoys near universal support, having been signed by 182 States and ratified by 155. However, the promise of the Treaty will not be fully realized until it enters into force and achieves its universality. We have gathered here to discuss concrete measures to facilitate this process. Now it is time to translate declarations into tangible support for the Treaty. We therefore urge all States which have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT, particularly those States listed in Annex 2 whose ratification is necessary, to do so without further delay.

Pending the entry into force of the CTBT, the international community must continue to reaffirm its commitment to refrain from nuclear explosions. The DPRK is the only country in the world since the Treaty's signature that has conducted nuclear tests. We therefore once again strongly urge the DPRK to abandon all nuclear weapons programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner in accordance with its obligations under UN Security Council resolutions and the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005. We believe that the denuclearization of the DPRK would contribute greatly to the strengthening of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Presidents,

This conference has provided us with an excellent opportunity to renew our commitment to the CTBT and its objectives. We welcome the Final Declaration as a reaffirmation of the international community's full support for the Treaty and look forward to working closely with other States to take substantive steps towards its early entry into force and universalization. Thank you. /END/