

DRAFT STATEMENT

ARTICLE XIV CONFERENCE

DELIVERED BY

**MR JOSEPH IITA, PERMANENT SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY**

NAMIBIA

Mr Chairman

Allow me to congratulate you on chairing this 3rd Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. My delegation wishes you every success, and would like to assure you of our full support and participation.

Namibia wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by H.E. the Ambassador of Malaysia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr Chairman

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has demonstrated its commitment to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-ban Treaty by signing it on the day it opened for signature in New York in September 1996, and subsequently ratifying it. My delegation believes that we owe it to ourselves and to the world to have a world free of nuclear weapons. It is our responsibility to ensure global security by fostering international co-operation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

However, despite the overwhelming support for the Treaty which is expressed by the 168 signatures and 104 ratifications so far, it remains disappointing that the Treaty has not entered into force 7 years after it has been opened for signature. It is unfortunate that the potential of this Treaty for international peace and security, will remain unfulfilled for as long as a small number of States delay or do not see the need to pursue its entry into force. My delegation believes that we need a concerted effort and the commitment of all States to achieve a world free of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction. In this regard we particularly urge those States whose ratification is necessary for the Treaty to enter into force, to sign and ratify it without delay.

Mr Chairman

My delegation is extremely pleased to note the recent ratification of Algeria, a State listed in Annex II to the Treaty. We wish to welcome this development, and congratulate Algeria on its ratification.

Mr Chairman

We view the Article XIV Conference as an important and excellent opportunity for the international community to reaffirm support for the full implementation of the CTBT, and to re-iterate our position in favour of the total elimination of all forms of nuclear testing. The CTBT remains central to our goal of nuclear disarmament, and international peace and security.

Mr Chairman, my delegation also wishes to express its appreciation towards the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO for the assistance in terms of training and information to Member States. We have and will continue to participate in these events. My Government is committed to providing its full support to the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO in the setting up and operation and maintenance of the monitoring stations hosted in our country. We believe that the support of Member States remain vitally important in the build-up of the verification and monitoring regime to be ready upon Entry into Force of the Treaty.

I thank you Mr Chairman.