



STATEMENT

be delivered by

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

Conference on facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT

(Article XIV Conference CTBT)

United Nations Headquarters

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Distinguished Co-Presidents,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Timor-Leste is proud to be one of the recent States to ratify the Treaty and we are pleased to be part of today's activity. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate other new ratifying States such as Sri-Lanka and Somalia who have taken this important step in the promotion of the international peace and security. Timor-Leste views the ratification of the treaty as a means in strengthening the international norms against nuclear testing.

As a developing State, Timor-Leste places great value on the civil and scientific benefits provided by the CTBT. As a small island state vulnerable to natural disaster, Timor-Leste may benefit from tsunami warnings based on the data produced by the IMS stations in the region, and for that we look forward to the assistance and cooperation with the CTBT on the matter.

The prohibition of nuclear testing itself is fundamentally critical to our security environment as it prevents humanitarian and environmental damages caused by the nuclear explosions. The treaty in our view, is complimentary to other disarmament framework such as the *Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons (TPNW)* and the *Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT)*, as it has successfully established a unique system to detect any nuclear tests and explosion around the globe and to the achievement of nuclear arms non-proliferation.

The CTBT has thus served as a critical framework to nuclear disarmament process, therefore contributing to our shared goal of a world without nuclear weapons, a goal we all strive to achieve. In this regard, Timor-Leste encourages states who have not done so, to sign and ratify the Treaty not only to ensure its entry into force but also to show our commitment as a global community, to the international peace and security.

The need to progress with the entry-into-force of the CTBT is even more important now given the current international tension. This requires all states to work towards the reinforcement of the CTBT, as we believe that the only way to have a lasting and verifiable nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, is the universalization of the treaty. **Thank you.**