

14<sup>th</sup> Article XIV Conference  
New York, 26 September 2025  
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I'm delighted to join my distinguished colleague Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Ma. Theresa Lazaro, as one of the Co-Presidents of this 14<sup>th</sup> Article XIV Conference. I look forward to working closely together with the Philippines in support of the CTBT and its entry into force.

I thank Under-Secretary-General Izumi Nakamitsu for her statement, and the outgoing co-presidents, Norway and Panama, for their work over the past two years.

I also express my sincere appreciation to Dr Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO, for his tireless efforts in support of the CTBT.

For Sweden, assuming this role for a second time is a sign of our steadfast support for the CTBT, as well as the wider interest to protect and strengthen the international security architecture and the rules based international order. This is particularly important given the current complex and challenging security environment.

Sweden has always been a supporter of a nuclear test ban treaty. Swedish politicians, diplomats and scientists worked for years on achieving a total ban on nuclear testing. Our scientists played a leading role in designing the CTBT verification system and continue to contribute to its further development.

Now, on the brink of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the CTBT, a lot of progress has been made. The Treaty has near universal support. There has been a surge in commitment during recent years – with nine more countries ratifying in the past four years. We thank them for taking this important step.

Crucially, the CTBT has established a strong global norm against nuclear testing, only violated by one country – North Korea – during this century. And even before entry into force, the CTBT's verification system has proven its worth. It has built confidence that any nuclear test explosion can be detected. It is a true global good, as it has also shown its value for civilian uses, like tsunami warnings.

But there have also been setbacks. Almost two years ago Russia revoked its ratification of the CTBT, taking us further away from entry into force and undermining ongoing non-proliferation and disarmament efforts. Sweden deeply deplores this decision. Russia remains a signatory and as such is obligated to continue to respect the purpose and the objective of the Treaty.

We want to see the treaty legally binding - a complete ban on nuclear tests. A particular responsibility lies with the nine states whose ratification is necessary for the Treaty to enter into force. For these nine, there is a real opportunity for international leadership. 35 of the originally 44 annex II states have ratified, including two nuclear weapons states. We need the remaining nine annex II countries to show leadership by taking the same step.

I urge the other nine non-ratifying states to also sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. Each ratification is important and contributes to a positive momentum towards the universalisation of the treaty, and ultimately its entry into force.

For the coming two years, Sweden has decided to do its part. Together with the Philippines and the CTBTO Secretariat, and no doubt many other supporters of the treaty, we will aim for tangible progress towards this objective.

I thank you.