

Remarks by H.E. KWEON Ki-hwan

Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs

***The 14th Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty***

September 26, 2025, New York

Co-Presidents and Excellencies,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Co-Presidents for their able leadership in presiding over this important Conference.

My delegation commends the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO, Dr. Robert Floyd, and his team for their tireless efforts in advancing the universalization of the CTBT.

We also take note with appreciation the adoption of the Final Declaration, which demonstrates our strong commitment to strengthen the global norm against nuclear testing.

Above all, tomorrow marks the 30th anniversary of the opening for signature of the CTBT. This milestone is a reminder of its enduring importance and the urgent need for its entry into force. In this light, we welcome the recent ratification of the Treaty by Papua New Guinea since the last conference.

Yet, despite such progress, three decades on, the Treaty still has not entered into force.

Out of the 44 Annex 2 States, nine have not signed or ratified. We strongly urge those remaining states to act without delay. Distinguished Delegates,

While the Democratic People's Republic of Korea(DPRK) is the only State to have conducted nuclear tests in the 21st century, the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula remains one of the most pressing challenges for the global non-proliferation regime.

We call on the DPRK to take concrete steps towards complete denuclearization; to refrain from further nuclear tests; to sign and ratify the CTBT; and to return to dialogue.

The ROK government, in close cooperation with the international community, will work towards tangible progress on the nuclear issue and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Excellencies,

The Republic of Korea (ROK), as an original State Signatory to the Treaty, has taken various efforts to enhance the CTBTO's verification and monitoring capabilities.

These efforts include the modernization of the Korea

Seismological Research Station (KSRS) in Wonju, the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI)'s plan to establish a radionuclide monitoring station by 2026, and the Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM)'s contributions to data analysis and capacity-building.

While reaffirming my government's unwavering commitment to the prompt ratification and universalization of the CTBT, I conclude my remarks. Thank you. /END/