



**STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA**

**by**

**H.E. Ms. Melita Gabrič**

**Deputy Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Minister for  
Development of the Republic of Slovenia**

**at the**

**Fourteenth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the  
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Article XIV Conference)**

**(New York, 26 September 2019)**

Distinguished Co-presidents, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Slovenia aligns with the statement delivered by the EU. I want to make a few points in my national capacity.

Co – presidents,

Slovenia is a strong believer in multilateralism; rules based international order and respect for international law. Unfortunately, we are observing their erosion. We are observing increasing pressure on global non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control architecture.

For its fourth year, the Russian Federation is waging a war of aggression against Ukraine that is eroding European and global security. Russia's Irresponsible nuclear rhetoric, coupled with announcements of readiness

to conduct nuclear tests, heightens security risks not only for Europe, but for the whole world.

Likewise, the illegal and provocative missile tests by the DPRK raise tensions and endanger regional and global security. The possibility of further nuclear tests remains a matter of utmost concern.

Co-presidents,

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and its Organization (CTBTO) remain indispensable and are more important than ever. The CTBTO not only has the vital role of detecting violations of non-proliferation norms, but is also reinforcing the global standard against nuclear testing.

The ratifications of Annex 2 states are long overdue. We appreciate the intense efforts of ES Floyd and his team to universalize the Treaty and bring about its entry into force. We call on all remaining Annex 2 states to ratify the Treaty and urge Russia to reverse its decision to revoke its ratification.

Co-Presidents,

Slovenia is in the final months of its tenure in the UN Security Council. Maintaining international peace and security has been our guiding principle - our *fil rouge* - and we will continue to uphold this commitment.

In this challenging context, we must redouble our efforts to uphold the universality and effective implementation of the international legal framework pertaining to disarmament and non-proliferation.

The CTBT is an essential part of that. We all benefit from the International Monitoring System, which provides not only critical verification infrastructure, but also valuable civil and scientific applications, such as early warning for earthquakes that may trigger tsunamis.

Finally, I extend Slovenia's sincere appreciation to Dr. Floyd, the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO, and the Secretariat for their dedication and professionalism, which inspire our continued commitment to a world without weapons of mass destruction.

Thank you.