
**Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**
New York, 23 September 2021

**PROGRESS REPORT ON
THE CO-PRESIDENCY BY ALGERIA AND GERMANY
OF THE ARTICLE XIV PROCESS
FROM SEPTEMBER 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 2021**

1. Algeria and Germany assumed the co-presidency of the Eleventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) (Article XIV conference) on 25 September 2019. Since then, both countries, as the Co-Coordinator for the entry into force of the CTBT, have led and coordinated international efforts for the promotion of the Treaty's early entry into force and universalization. During their tenure, Cuba and the Union of the Comoros ratified the Treaty. Today, the CTBT has 185 States Signatories, of which 170 have also ratified the Treaty.
2. During their tenure, Algeria and Germany conducted many activities, individually or jointly, based on the Action Plan which set out the measures to be taken by the Co-Coordinator in support of implementing the Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty adopted at the 2019 Article XIV conference. In spite of the negative impact of the sanitary measures related to COVID-19 pandemic, the Co-Coordinator implemented numerous activities of the Action Plan, including the following:
 - (1) Approaches by Algeria and Germany to non-ratifying States
 - Algeria and Germany, individually and jointly, made invitations on numerous occasions, to the remaining Annex 2 and other non-ratifying States, at political and ambassadorial levels, throughout their tenure as Co-Coordinator. Further steps were undertaken in Algiers, Berlin and Vienna. On these occasions, the Co-Coordinator highlighted the importance of the early entry into force of the CTBT, called for non-ratifying States' early signature and ratification of the Treaty and for their increased engagement with the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization's (CTBTO)

International Monitoring System (IMS), while bearing in mind the country specific context of each non-ratifying State.

- In its capacity as Chair of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO in 2020, Algeria undertook several actions aiming to enhance the role of the Preparatory Commission, improve its work and strengthen its membership. In this regard, Algeria reaffirmed, in bilateral and multilateral formats, the central role of the CTBT in international efforts for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Several calls were also made upon all parties for early ratification of the CTBT, particularly the remaining non-ratifying States in Annex 2
- Algeria reiterated its support to the Preparatory Commission in executing its tasks in the most efficient and effective manner and recalled the utmost need for promoting and facilitating consensus toward strengthening the unity of the Commission by complying with its established rules and decisions.
- Germany, within the framework of initiatives related to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), such as the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative and the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament, advocated addressing the entry into force of the CTBT as a matter of priority. Consequently, the call on the remaining Annex 2 States to sign and/or ratify the CTBT, the necessity to uphold and maintain a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions and the support for the CTBTO were included in the programmatic priorities of both initiatives.
- Within the European Union (EU) framework, Germany initiated an EU démarche in support of further ratifications of the CTBT, carried out in 2021 in countries that have not yet signed, as well as in countries that have signed but not yet ratified the CTBT. Within the G7 framework, Germany advocated a clear reaffirmation of the goal to bring the CTBT into force and its support of the Preparatory Commission. Both commitments were reflected by all the G7 members at the level of the Non-Proliferation Directors.
- In their national capacities, Algeria and Germany recalled in various international meetings and forums their support for the Treaty and the importance they attach to its early entry into force. Together with like-minded Foreign Ministers, Algeria and Germany participated in a video conference convened by the Dutch Foreign Minister in July 2020 to push for the entry into force of the CTBT. They have been also engaged with high level decision makers during bilateral and multilateral meetings to encourage further signature and ratification of the Treaty. At the High-Level Plenary of the United Nations General Assembly held on 8 September 2021 commemorating the International Day against Nuclear Testing, Germany underlined the value of the CTBT as a milestone from both a humanitarian and a political perspective, and reiterated the call on each individual Annex 2 State, whose ratification to the CTBT is outstanding, to sign/and or ratify the Treaty.
- Algeria and Germany co-chaired the Article XIV conference in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (25 September 2019).

- Algeria and Germany took advantage of various international and regional conferences to recall the importance of achieving the goals of the CTBT and to promote its early entry into force. At the regional level, Algeria seized the opportunity at the celebration by the African Commission on Nuclear Energy of the 25th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Pelindaba Treaty (April 2021) to champion the CTBT and its early entry into force. Likewise, Germany seized the opportunity at the 30th anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk test site to promote the goals and objectives of the CTBT and its entry into force.
 - The Foreign Minister of Algeria took part in the High Level Panel of the European Forum Alpbach dedicated to the concept of “Championing a Nuclear Test Free World” (August 2020), jointly with the Former President of Finland His Excellency Tarja Halonen.
 - The Deputy Federal Government Commissioner for Disarmament and Arms Control of the German Federal Foreign Office participated in a panel discussion hosted by the CTBTO on the CTBT and the 10th NPT Review Conference (October 2020).
 - Algeria and Germany, in cooperation with the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) and the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, also organized the high level event on strengthening the CTBT and its verification regime (January 2021). The event, which was attended by 584 participants, highlighted the interdependency between the establishment and provisional operation of the CTBT verification system and efforts towards entry into force.
- (2) Promoting various initiatives
- Pandemic restrictions did not allow for a physical CTBT Ministerial Meeting, due to take place in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly high level week in September 2020. In lieu of such a meeting, Germany, as one of the Friends of the CTBT countries, co-organized a promotional video featuring the group’s Foreign Ministers and the CTBTO Executive Secretary.
- (3) Raising awareness among stakeholders and citizens
- The Governments of Algeria and Germany promoted the goal of a world without nuclear tests in official publications, on the web sites of their Foreign Ministries, and in presentations and speeches given to civil society by government officials.
3. Reflecting on the wide range of activities conducted throughout their tenure, the Co-Coordinator have made the following observations:
- The vast majority of the international community has recognized that the entry into force of the CTBT is a practical and pragmatic way to advance nuclear disarmament as envisaged in the NPT. Furthermore, the Treaty plays a critical role in responding to the challenge posed by the Democratic People’s Republic of

Korea by reinforcing the no test norm. Therefore, efforts shall be continued to finish this ‘unfinished business’.

- It is important to make continued political commitments and efforts to facilitate the signature and ratification of the CTBT by the remaining Annex 2 States. In particular, efforts should be made to approach these States at the highest political level where appropriate and practical, in order to engage decision makers and to encourage further signature and ratification of the Treaty.
 - Emphasis should be placed on making joint international efforts to address issues that present obstacles for the remaining Annex 2 States to sign and ratify the CTBT. In this regard, making efforts at a regional level can be instrumental and beneficial to creating an environment conducive to ratification.
 - A gradual approach might be taken by non-signatory States, including those of the remaining Annex 2 States, towards their signature of the Treaty. Engaging with the Commission by participating as an observer could be a first step towards a signature.
 - Enhanced efforts are encouraged for the remaining Annex 2 and other States that have not yet done so to build IMS stations on their territories and transfer data to the International Data Centre. Continued international cooperation in capacity building for National Data Centres, particularly in developing countries, is needed to further strengthen the verification regime for the detection of nuclear testing.
 - The change of position of Annex 2 States regarding the CTBT, though not desired, should not constitute an impediment or a reason for other Annex 2 States not to move towards signature and/or ratification of the Treaty.
4. Two years of Co-Coordiators’ activities offered valuable lessons for future activities of the Article XIV process. While the drafting of and subsequent consultations on the Final Declaration towards the 2021 Article XIV conference were among the highlights of the Co-Coordiators’ activities, these were just the beginning of their activities. Indeed, experiences and insights were accumulated through their persistent outreach and other promotional activities following the conference, in particular through their close engagement with the remaining Annex 2 and other non-ratifying States. These activities are all the more important for the promotion of the Treaty and allow the Co-Coordiators to move the Treaty forward more actively and effectively.
5. In this regard, it is worth recalling that paragraph 2 of Article XIV of the Treaty provides that the Article XIV conference “shall examine the extent to which the requirement set out in paragraph 1 has been met and shall consider and decide by consensus what measures consistent with international law may be undertaken to accelerate the ratification process in order to facilitate the early entry into force of this Treaty.” In light of the goal and purpose of the conference stipulated in the Treaty, the conference should provide a useful platform for ratifying and signatory States to discuss and decide on practical and pragmatic ways to promote the ratification process by which to facilitate the Treaty’s early entry into force. As 25 years have passed since the opening of the Treaty for signature, it is high time to review practices up until now and thereby revitalize the conference mechanism in order to fully advance its objective and renew international commitment to realizing the cause of the Treaty.

6. As Italy and South Africa have been elected co-presidents of the Twelfth Article XIV conference in 2021, Algeria and Germany reaffirm their commitment and readiness to work closely with the incoming co-presidents, as well as with other countries to further advocate the noble cause of a comprehensive and global test ban on a nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.