



# **CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Statement by**

**H.E. Ms. Helena BAMBASOVA**

**Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs**

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

**New York, 24 September 2009**

**Check Against Delivery**

Distinguished Co-Presidents,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you, the Co-Presidents, on your election to preside over the sixth Article XIV Conference. I am convinced that your able leadership will contribute to the success of this meeting. Let me therefore assure you of the full support of my delegation.

The Czech Republic fully associates itself with the statement delivered by Sweden on behalf of the European Union. In my speech I will therefore limit myself only to a few specific points of special interest to my country.

The Czech Republic strongly supports the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as an essential component of the international security architecture that is based on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation-Treaty (NPT). The urgency of entry into force of the Treaty is evermore important. In the current security environment the challenges are growing, but so are the opportunities. The Czech Republic welcomes the new dynamic emphasized by the Prague speech of the US President Barack Obama. We hope to see that the new momentum will persuade even the skeptics that the CTBT is not here to preserve the nuclear status quo, but that by putting an irreversible and verifiable end to nuclear explosion testing worldwide it will contribute, in synergy with other equally important international instruments, to achieving the final goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as defined in the NPT.

The Czech Republic strongly condemned the nuclear test by the DPRK on May 25, 2009, and deeply regrets the downturn of negotiations in the Korean Peninsula. The announced nuclear test was detected, among others, also by our auxiliary seismic station. Incidentally, it served as an important preparedness test of the Czech National Data Centre (NDC), and showed a need to enhance the screening methodology that is used in order to distinguish between a small scale nuclear explosion and an earthquake.

The Czech Republic is pleased to be a part of the non-proliferation policy of the European Union. The three successive EU Presidencies (French, Czech and the current Swedish Presidency) made it a shared medium term priority to foster the process of CTBT coming into force. In the framework of this initiative the Czech Foreign Minister appealed to his counterparts in the nine remaining Annex II countries to sign and/or ratify, as the case may be, the Treaty expeditiously. I wish to thank to those who responded to this appeal. We sensed a support to our common goal if not to the means of achieving it. We will work on with our partners to persuade the others that the Treaty's entry into force is in the interest of all countries.

In conclusion, the Czech Republic would like to express its appreciation to Ambassador Ramaker, Special Representative of the States that have ratified the Treaty, for the work accomplished, as well as to the Government of The Netherlands, which has generously supported his efforts.

Thank you.