



Statement by the Delegation of Afghanistan

CTBTO Ministerial Meeting

Vienna, June 13, 2016

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**Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Executive Secretary,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am pleased to speak on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in this important high-level meeting today, marking the 20th anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

At the outset, I would like to associate with the previous speakers in expressing our deep sympathy and condolences on the recent deadly attack in the United States.

Mr. Chairman,

As a party to the (CTBT), Afghanistan is committed to this important Treaty, as a core international instrument on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Today, the significance of this Treaty is evident more than ever, as it represents the desire of people across the globe for a world free of nuclear weapons, which can be exemplified by continued governmental and non-governmental efforts towards the entry into force of the Treaty.

We welcome the new signatories to the CTBT, further adding to the relevance of the Treaty as one of the most adhered-to instruments in this area. While welcoming the voluntary

moratorium on nuclear tests by some countries, we wish to stress the importance of universal adherence to the Treaty and its entry into force as a necessary step towards international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

We commend the efforts that have been made in continuously advancing the Treaty's verification regime, endowing it with global reach. We also appreciate the civil and scientific activities under the CTBT, in providing accurate data related to earthquakes, tsunamis, and nuclear accidents, as well as other civil and scientific applications to all states parties.

We would like to further stress the importance of capacity building opportunities for National Data Centers and other aspects of civil and scientific applications.

In conclusion, let me reemphasize our interest to fully participate in the CTBTO's activities and we look forward to further benefit from the capacity building programs offered by the organization.

Thank you,

