**STATEMENT BY CANADA TO THE CONFERENCE ON**

**FACILITATING THE ENTRY-INTO-FORCE OF**

**THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY**

**DELIVERED BY THE ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND POLICITAL AFFAIRS**

**GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA**

Distinguished colleagues,

Allow me to recognize the work of our two coordinators, Belgium and Iraq, and of our co-chairs Germany and Algeria in organizing this eleventh article XIV conference.

Canada firmly believes that a world in which the rules-based international order prevails is a world in which we can achieve peace, security, equality and prosperity for all. The ban on nuclear testing enshrined in the CTBT is vital to international peace and security.

The effectiveness of the CTBT is buttressed by the assurances that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty Organization provides to the international community that any and all nuclear explosions that are conducted will be detected.

The CTBT International Monitoring System has detected every nuclear test that has taken place in the 21st Century.

All of these have been carried out by one state, North Korea, whose nuclear tests have threatened the stability of the world.

We reiterate our call on North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons programme. A diplomatic solution to the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula is essential and possible and we will continue to work closely with our allies and partners to make it a reality.

While we welcome this opportunity to promote the Treaty and its security benefits for all states, we look forward to the day when entry-in-force of the Treaty precludes the need to convene these article XIV conferences.

The CTBT International Monitoring System and the On-Site inspection capabilities will only be able to fully verify countries’ compliance with the Treaty when the Treaty enters into force.

This is why Canada urges the remaining Annex 2 States that have not yet done so to ratify the CTBT as soon as possible.

While promoting the entry into force of the CTBT, Canada is pleased to work with its Preparatory Commission and its Provisional Technical Secretariat to ensure that the CTBT Organisation is ready to perform its monitoring and verification work upon entry into force of the Treaty. For example, as we speak, experts from numerous States and from the Preparatory Commission are taking part in a hands-on training course in Canada on Airborne Additional Overflight Techniques required for on-site inspections to verify States’ compliance with the CTBT.

Canada also works actively to strengthen the CTBTO’s verification capabilities in other countries. We are, for example, currently working with Kazakhstan to construct a radionuclide detection station that will be established as a Cooperating National Facility for the International Monitoring System.

The CTBTO and the international community can count on Canada’s steadfast support to promote the Treaty’s essential role in the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture.

Thank you.