



# **CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Statement by**

**H.E. Mr. Karel Schwarzenberg**

**First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
the Czech Republic**

**At the Seventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of  
the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

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**Check against delivery**

Mr. Co-President,

First of all, let me congratulate to both Co-Presidents on your election and to wish both of you every success in chairing the Seventh Article XIV Conference. I would like to assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation. I would also like to thank France and Morocco for their excellent work done in their previous role of Article XIV Conference coordinators.

Before making several comments I would like to associate my delegation with the statement given by Poland on behalf of the European Union.

On the fifteenth anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Czech Republic would like to reaffirm its support to the process leading to the **entry into force** of the Treaty, which will significantly strengthen the international security architecture based on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation-Treaty (NPT). We are convinced that the enhanced political momentum behind this process revitalized by the successful last year's NPT Review Conference must be maintained in order to close the door on nuclear testing and contribute to the final goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as defined by the NPT.

Mr Co-Presidents,

Recognizing the importance of the CTBT, the Czech Republic fully supports the efforts of the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) to further develop the CTBT **verification regime** as a strong non-proliferation and confidence building instrument.

The value of the CTBT was clearly demonstrated after the two nuclear tests by the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)** which were unanimously condemned by the UN Security Council. The Czech Republic is persuaded that the DPRK continued defiance of its international commitments is one of the most critical threats that endanger global peace and security. Against this backdrop, the crucial role of the CTBT and its verification regime is more than evident.

This year's tragic **events in Japan** also proved the relevance of CTBT verification data and technologies for civil and scientific applications, which include, among others, early tsunami warning, disaster mitigation and climate change studies. Apart from that, we noticed with satisfaction, that the June Science and Technology Conference further contributed to the advancement of innovative verification capabilities of the CTBT.

The Czech Republic is encouraged by one new signature and four **new ratifications** of the Treaty since the last Article XIV Conference in September 2009. We hope that this Conference will send a clear signal of our determination to spare no effort to speed up the entry into force of the CTBT, thus contributing to the strengthening of the global non-proliferation regime.

Thank you, Mr Co-Presidents.