



# IRELAND

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

**Address by Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore T.D., Deputy Prime  
Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade of Ireland**

Friday 27 September 2013

Joint Presidents,

I am delighted to address this eighth Article XIV Conference on Facilitating Entry Into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. May I congratulate you both on your election as Joint Presidents of the Conference and assure you both of Ireland's support.

I would like to associate Ireland fully with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Joint Presidents,

Ireland has always strongly supported the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. We see it as an essential element in the global nuclear non-proliferation regime built around the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. By prohibiting all nuclear weapons test explosions and all other nuclear explosions, the CTBT will impede the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons. It is therefore essential if we are to achieve an end to nuclear testing.

It is now sixteen years since the CTBT was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Ireland signed the Treaty in 1996 and ratified it in 1999. We were the fortieth State to do so. Today there are 183 State signatories, 161 of which have ratified, and I would like to offer my congratulations to Guinea-Bissau and Iraq, both of which ratified the Treaty this week. While this level of adherence to the Treaty already represents a strong international norm against nuclear weapons testing, we cannot afford to wait any longer for its entry into force. The provocative nuclear test explosions conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in February of this year demonstrates the urgency of achieving entry into force as a matter of urgency.

It is for this reason that I call again on those Annex 2 states whose ratification is required before the Treaty can enter into force to sign and ratify it without further delay. I commend President Obama's recent reaffirmation, in Berlin in June, of his Administration's commitment to building support for ratification within the United States. I urge all other Annex 2 States to show similar leadership.

Joint Presidents,

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty's Preparatory Commission for its excellent work in building up the international monitoring system in anticipation of the Treaty's entry into force. This system has been described as "one of the most ambitious projects ever to monitor the earth." It will enable the organisation to verify compliance with the Treaty on a global basis. Its capacity to do so will also bring wider civilian benefits in being able to detect seismic or tsunami activity, as was demonstrated at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in March 2011.

The interpretation of data will be at the core of this verification system. Analysis of that data at the International Data Centre in Vienna will provide Member States with the information they need in assessing events of possible relevance to the Treaty. Ireland, I am happy to say, participates fully in this exchange of data. Last year I was delighted to join Dr. Lassina Zerbo in opening Ireland's National Data Centre in Dublin.

It is, of course, Irish scientific research which lies at the foundation of modern seismology. Robert Mallet, a Dublin scientist working in the mid-nineteenth century, tested how energy generated by explosions would pass through sand and rock. Mallet is today regarded as the father of seismology.

Joint Presidents,

Ireland believes that entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty will significantly strengthen the international security architecture built upon the foundations of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and will represent an important step along the path to a world without nuclear weapons.

We must achieve the Treaty's entry into force, and I can give an assurance that Ireland will use every opportunity to promote this essential objective.

Thank you.