

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

(23-24 September 2021)

Statement by Ambassador H.E. Ahmet Muhtar Gün

**Permanent Representative of Turkey to the Office of the United Nations and other
International Organizations in Vienna**

Distinguished Co-Presidents,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Turkey associates itself with the EU statement delivered this afternoon. I would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

First, we congratulate Dr. Robert Floyd again on his appointment as the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO. We wish him every success in promoting the entry into force and universal adherence to the CTBT.

We also thank Algeria and Germany for their efforts as the previous Article XIV Conference Co-Presidents. We congratulate Italy and South Africa on their assumption of the Presidency and assure them of our full support and cooperation.

September 2021 marks the 25th year of the opening for signature of the CTBT. It is regrettable after a quarter of a century that the Treaty has not yet entered into force. To this end, Turkey urges once again the remaining eight Annex II States, whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the CTBT, to sign and ratify the CTBT without further delay. We affirm that a universal and effectively verifiable treaty constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. At the same time, all States should maintain or implement moratoria on nuclear tests.

Excellencies,

As an unwavering supporter of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Turkey was among the first signatories of the CTBT. We have faithfully honoured our commitments deriving from the Treaty since its inception.

Apart from active cooperation with the CTBTO at the technical level, including through its International Monitoring System, we are also politically engaged in raising broad awareness about the objectives of the Treaty and encouraging its ratification.

We pursue these efforts with steadfast commitment, on a bilateral level and multilaterally with others, most notably through the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.

I thank you for your attention.