

**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 POLITICAL AFFAIRS
GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA**

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

I wish to extend Canada's thanks for your hard work, as well as the work of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBT Organization and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, in putting together this conference and its Final Declaration. I also wish to personally thank Executive Secretary Dr. Robert Floyd for his tireless efforts in promoting the CTBT's entry into force.

Thanks to his hard work, eight new instruments of ratification have been deposited since we last met virtually in September 2021. Canada welcomes the ratifications from Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and Tuvalu.

We also congratulate Somalia for taking its first step towards ratification by signing the CTBT earlier this month. We encourage others to follow its example.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

I would be remiss if I did not speak to the international environment in which this Conference is taking place. Canada condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unjustifiable full-scale invasion of Ukraine and its ongoing aggression, which serve as a near-daily reminder of the threat posed by nuclear weapons.

Canada calls on Russia to withdraw its troops and military equipment from the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine immediately, completely, and unconditionally.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Canada remains a strong proponent of the CTBT, its entry into force and its verification system. We have worked in our national capacity, as well as with our partners in the G7, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative and Stockholm Initiative on Nuclear Disarmament, to promote these priorities and bring the CTBT closer to universalization.

We reiterate our call on all states that have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty without any further delay. We recall that the eight Annex 2 states that have yet to ratify the Treaty bear a special responsibility for the CTBT's entry into force. We encourage them to seek new and innovative ways to overcome any remaining obstacles and, to this end, offer Canada's continued support.

Pending the Treaty's entry into force, Canada is of the view that more can and should be done. We call on all states to continue to devote attention and resources to the International Monitoring System, which has consistently demonstrated its ability to achieve the Treaty's objective.

In this regard, Canada is proud to continue to work with Kazakhstan to build, install, and operationalize a radionuclide detection station, which will be established as a prototype Cooperating National Facility for the International Monitoring System.

Coprésidents distingués,

Nous exhortons tous les États à déclarer ou à maintenir des moratoires nationaux volontaires sur les explosions expérimentales d'armes nucléaires en attendant l'entrée en vigueur du Traité. Il s'agit là de mesures de confiance importantes et nécessaires.

C'est particulièrement le cas pour la Corée du Nord, le seul État à avoir procédé à une explosion expérimentale d'armes nucléaires au cours de ce siècle. Nous exhortons de nouveau la Corée du Nord à abandonner son programme d'armes nucléaires.

Le Canada continue de défendre l'idée qu'une solution diplomatique à la crise nucléaire dans la péninsule coréenne est essentielle et possible. Et nous continuerons de travailler en étroite collaboration avec nos alliés et nos partenaires pour en faire une réalité.

En terminant, coprésidents distingués, l'Organisation du Traité d'interdiction complète des essais nucléaires et la communauté internationale peuvent compter sur l'appui indéfectible du Canada pour faciliter l'entrée en vigueur du Traité. Un traité pleinement en vigueur procurera à tous des avantages tangibles en matière de sécurité et contribuera à faire progresser nos efforts collectifs pour mettre un terme à la prolifération des armes nucléaires et éliminer les arsenaux existants.

Je vous remercie.