**Twelfth Article XIV Conference in support of the Entry-into-Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).**

**Statement by Denmark**

**As delivered by Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Jeppe Kofod**

**United Nations, New York. 23 September 2021**

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Distinguished Co-Presidents,

Denmark aligns itself with the EU statement.

I take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to CTBTO Executive Secretary Floyd on his appointment and ensure him of my support in his mission.

It was a pleasure to welcome him to Copenhagen earlier this month.

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The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is a key element of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime with the Non-Proliferation Treaty at its core.

The Treaty has established a strong norm against nuclear weapons testing.

Yet twenty-five years after its opening for signature, our Treaty is still not in force.

A legally binding instrument would outlaw nuclear weapon tests for good.

For this reason, promoting entry into force remains a top priority.

I call on all the remaining Annex II countries to take every step possible towards early ratification.

This would be a valuable and necessary contribution to multilateralism and to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation*.*

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Even in the absence of entry into force, the international community has managed to build a strong and effective regime. A regime that has proven itself useful for verification, but also for civil and scientific uses.

The Kingdom of Denmark is proud to host two of the important monitoring stations.

Pending entry-into-force we must ensure that the verification system functions effectively. And we must ensure that the monitoring system remains up-to-date.

We support all efforts by the Secretariat and Signatory States to that end.

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Distinguished Co-Presidents,

At this 25th anniversary conference, I join the calls for finishing what we have started: Let us put a legally binding end to nuclear testing.

Thank you.