

**Statement by H.E. Mr Erkki Tuomioja, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland,
2013 Article XIV Conference
United Nations, New York
27 September 2013**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen

For Finland, the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is one of the disarmament priorities. The Treaty's entry into force will considerably strengthen the world's security architecture and benefit the whole world. After 17 years, 183 signatures and 159 ratifications, the Treaty is still to enter into force. The entry into force of the Treaty is the reason we are here today in this Article XIV Conference, underlining once again the importance of the Treaty. Once again we urge all those States that have not yet ratified the treaty to do it as soon as possible.

However, while recognizing that we cannot be satisfied as long as the Treaty is not in force, we should not either be too modest in commending the progress that has been made over the years. The number of signatures and ratifications has increased steadily and examined as numbers only, 183 and 159 respectively is not so bad. We have to continue the work to increase these numbers, as each new ratification is important representing a step towards universalisation - despite the fact that crucial are those eight ratifications that are still missing for the Treaty to enter into force.

One of the most important developments has been, in my opinion, the voluntary nuclear test moratorium developing towards being a de facto international norm. I consider this has happened because the Treaty has existed. I do not think it decreases the importance of the Treaty entering into force. On the contrary, I believe that the moratorium is a phase that makes it easier to certain states to commit themselves to a permanent and legally binding Treaty.

When taking stock of the past years, we should neither forget the vast progress made as regards to the verification system. By signing and ratifying the Treaty we have committed ourselves to construct a verification system that will be fully operational by the time that the Treaty enters into force. We still have work to do but today nobody should have doubts about the system working as it should when it is needed.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to welcome the final declaration of the ratifying states and let me also thank Article XIV Coordinators for all the work they've done. I would like to take this opportunity and welcome Mr Lassina Zerbo, CTBTO's new Executive Secretary, to this Article XIV Conference. You and your staff, whom we know to be dedicated people and worked full time to advance the Treaty, can count on Finland's full support in your work.