

Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations

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

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A Statement by

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Mr. President,

Let me join previous speakers in congratulating you, on behalf of the delegation of Israel, on being elected President of the Conference.

Our thanks and congratulations also to the new Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission, Dr. Lassina Zerbo, and the staff of the Provisional Technical Secretariat for their excellent work in preparing for the CTBT's entry into force, and especially for the efforts invested in establishing its verification regime.

Mr. President,

Israel's decision to sign the CTBT soon after its opening for signature in September 1996 was a clear testament to our long standing commitment to non-proliferation and firm belief that the CTBT is an important component of the global non-proliferation regime. The importance of the CTBT global message and mission cannot be exaggerated.

In this regard, one of the main challenges facing the Treaty is the need for global commitment not to carry out any nuclear test explosion and any other nuclear explosion. The DPRK's nuclear test in February 2013, widely deplored by the international community, was a gloomy reminder that the rigorous will of many is simply not enough. The quick and unambiguous message sent from the UN Security Council to the DPRK emphasizes the unwavering commitment of the international community to a world free of nuclear testing.

Mr. President,

Israel contributed to the Treaty during the deliberations phase, and has actively supported the CTBT Organization in all its endeavors since its establishment. Moreover, we continually work with all willing partners to facilitate the completion of the Treaty's global verification regime, which is one of the conditions for the Treaty's entry into force.

Israel has constructed two auxiliary seismic stations in Meron and Eilat, as required by the Treaty. Both stations have been successfully certified by the PTS, and are continuously transmitting their data to the IDC.

Israeli experts take part in most of the verification build-up activities, specifically those related to OSI. Their contribution is also significant in the drafting and testing of the OSI Operational Manual.

Mr. President,

Since the last Conference, we have achieved major improvement in the capacity of IMS stations, IDC capabilities, and OSI necessary elements. Nonetheless, we are still facing major gaps that must be bridged. It is harming the credibility of the Treaty and its verification regime that in the important and fragile Middle East, there are three IMS primary seismic and radionuclide stations which are effectively **not** contributing data to the IDC. It is our challenge to confront this disturbing situation both technically as well as politically. Until the designed IMS system is in place we should take measures to strengthen its capabilities. Such measures may include temporary operation of auxiliary seismic stations as primary ones.

Mr. President,

We call upon all member states, as well as the PTS, to redouble their efforts to complete the CTBT verification regime to the level necessary for entry into force. This includes several aspects of OSI such as: technologies and techniques; procurement of relevant equipment; training of OSI inspectors; the completion of the OSI Operational Manual; and the buildup of OSI infrastructure.

In this regard, we would like to praise the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for its willingness to host the Integrated Field Exercise (IFE), planned to take place in 2014. Israel commends the PTS for its work towards ensuring the success of the IFE14. On the request of the PTS, Israel contributed specific scientific expertise in the magnetic realm, needed for the IFE, and performed a seismic field experiment which supports the design of the IFE14 passive seismology part. Israel will continue to seek ways and means to contribute to the upcoming exercise.

Mr. President,

An enhanced scientific capability, in support of the CTBT, is a cornerstone in the creation of a reliable verification regime. To support this important goal, Israel successfully organized, the Radionuclide Laboratory Workshop in conjunction with the PTS, in Jerusalem last May. 33 participants from 16 institutions as well as from the PTS attended the workshop, to discuss and address developments and issues pertaining to the tasks and missions of CTBT certified laboratories. Following the workshop, the Israeli Radionuclide laboratory hosted an informal knowledge-sharing event in cooperation with the PTS at the

Soreq Nuclear Research Center. This event was aimed towards assisting uncertified laboratories in the certification process.

Mr. President,

Israel has always maintained that the nuclear issue, as well as all other security issues, can only be realistically addressed within the regional context. It is our vision and policy to support, and wherever possible, to join those arms control and other international treaties and arrangements that do not detract from Israel's narrow security margins.

Notwithstanding current political realities and the unstable nature of the Middle East, Israel has continued to pursue a consistent policy of restraint and responsibility in the nuclear area.

Mr. President,

Israel's stance on the CTBT's entry into force will be based on the overall regional situation, the completion of the treaty's verification regime, as mandated by the Treaty, and Israel's sovereign equality status in the policy making organs of the Treaty.

In this regard, we are looking forward to the launch of the Middle East-South Asia (MESA) regional group of the Treaty, which has thus far been circumvented due to extraneous ill-motivated political constraints imposed by some regional states. That the MESA regional group has been paralyzed for more than 15 years is an intolerable situation that must be resolved.

Mr. President,

Since the last Conference, important steps have been taken towards promoting the Treaty's entry into force. Nonetheless, we should all see to it that our mission is fully achieved as designed and agreed upon in the Treaty. Israel pledges its continued cooperation and assistance to realize our common goal.

Thank you.