



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
AT THE
EIGHT ARTICLE XIV CONFERENCE ON THE
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

NEW YORK, FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2013

Distinguished Co-Presidents,
Mr. Secretary-General,
The Executive Secretary
Colleagues,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to start by congratulating the Co-Presidents, Hungary and Indonesia on their election to the Presidency of the Eight Article XIV Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The delegation of Nigeria wishes you every success in the task entrusted ^{to} on you by States Parties. Let me also commend the outgoing Co-Presidents, Mexico and Sweden, for their sterling work as Article XIV coordinators up to this Conference.

My delegation would like to underline that the past years have indeed borne testimony to a renewed effort and momentum to encourage nuclear disarmament and stem the tide of nuclear non-proliferation. The preference ^{of} for my delegation would have been to have no need for this important meeting. This wish would have been the ideal since such scenario signifies ^{the final entry into force of the important treaty.} the final entry into force of the important treaty.

The intrinsic value of the CTBT in setting a global norm against any kind of nuclear explosion, and enabling the international community to respond immediately to any challenges to this established norm cannot be over-stressed. We also recognize the capability of the International Monitoring System of the CTBT verification regime to bring scientific and civil benefits.

We commend the effective negotiations on the final declaration of this conference as a demonstration of the continued determination of States Signatories to work towards an early entry into force of the Treaty, to put an end to nuclear test explosions totaling more than 2000.

Despite these demonstrations of best intentions, we have again convened under the Article XIV procedure to address the challenges of the CTBT.

- It is the eighth time that the majority of States that have deposited the instruments of ratification have requested the convening of a conference to examine further measures to accelerate the process for an early entry into force of the CTBT - a major pillar in the disarmament and non-proliferation regime.
- It is the eighth time that foreign ministers of these States would have to reiterate the gains to be derived from the treaty's entry into force with emphasis on how this has eluded us.

My delegation commends the efforts of a strong and viable organization in promoting the treaty and disseminating appropriate information on its entry into force. The CTBTO has ensured that the ratifying States have not remained idle during the seventeen years that elapsed after the CTBT was opened for signature. My delegation wishes to further commend the efforts of its former Executive Secretary, Mr. Tibor TOTH for the many initiatives he put place and pledges full support for our Dear Brother, Dr. Lassina Zerbo, the new Executive Secretary as he begins to navigate the ship of the organization and necessary advocacy.

A total of 183 States have signed the CTBT, in addition to the 159 ratifications. However, much work is still required of us as States Parties towards the universalization of the treaty. Since the last Conference in 2011, Guatemala, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Chad and only yesterday, Iraq have submitted their instruments of ratifications. My delegation commends these new States Parties and warmly welcomes them into the fold.

We seize this opportunity to further appeal to those States that have not yet signed and ratified the Treaty to do so without further delay and; in particular, the remaining Annex 2 countries, whose ratification is necessary for the treaty's entry into force.

This eighth Article XIV Conference takes place at a time when the CTBT is gaining significant political momentum, in particular within some Annex 2 States. We welcome efforts by the US to pursue ratification of the Treaty, including a final ban for the testing of nuclear weapons and commend the renewed commitment of China to the ratification of the Treaty. We call on all States, without exception, to honour this noble commitment and cease future plans to conduct nuclear tests.

Nigeria supports the final declaration of the eighth Article XIV Conference and in this regard, my delegation again applauds all recent ratifications and urge all States to work towards advancing the cause of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament by promoting entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

We must remain vigilant even as we continue to encourage further signature and ratification of the treaty. The only assurance the world has against the devastation and misery of the effects of nuclear weapons is their total elimination. We need to contribute to a peaceful, secure and prosperous world, not one dominated by fear of detonation of nuclear bombs.

I thank you.