

SLOVENIA

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**STATEMENT
BY**

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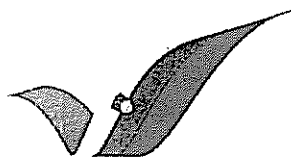
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

at the

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

New York, 23 September 2011

SLOVENIA



**Candidate for the United Nations Security Council
2012 - 2013**

Madam Co-President, Mr Co-President, Mr Executive Secretary, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues,

At the very outset, allow me to congratulate you, Madam Co-President, Mr Co-President, on your appointment. I would like to assure you both of my delegation's full support for a successful conclusion of this Conference. Let me also thank most sincerely the distinguished ambassadors of France and Morocco who previously served as Article XIV co-presidents and coordinators.

I would like to align myself with the statement delivered by distinguished colleague Minister Sikorsky of Poland on behalf of the European Union.

Madam Co-President, Mr Co-President,

Apart from what has already been stated on behalf of the European Union, I would like to underline our enthusiasm for the renewed global debate on disarmament and non-proliferation. The world was very different when we met here in New York during the previous Article IV Conference in September 2009.

First of all, now we have 182 states signatories and 154 states parties to the Treaty.

Secondly, last May, we have successfully concluded the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. The Final Document and the Action Plan stressed the importance of the CTBT's early entry into force.

We are convinced that the final document of the NPT Review Conference represents a possible new consensus on our way towards our ultimate objective of a world free of nuclear weapons.

An important piece of this puzzle is the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) that remains a cornerstone legal instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and ban on nuclear weapons tests. Like many other states, Slovenia continues to attach vital importance to the legally binding prohibition of nuclear weapon testing and any other nuclear explosions, as well as to a credible verification regime. We also urge all states to dismantle all their nuclear testing sites in a transparent manner, open to the international community.

Slovenia upholds a prompt entry into force of the CTBT, and a speedy completion of its verification regime. We therefore call upon all states, particularly those listed in Annex II, to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay and without conditions and, pending its entry into force, to abide by the moratorium on nuclear testing and refrain from any action contrary to the obligations and provisions of the CTBT. In this context, we welcome the intention of the United States and other states to ratify the Treaty in the near future. These ratifications would add impetus towards the regime's universalisation. We are also encouraged by Ghana's recent ratification of the Treaty, and its recent membership of the CTBT family.

Madame Co-President, Mr Co-President,

A week ago, we celebrated the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty. Our predecessors completed their task by drafting and signing the Treaty.

Our generation's task is to complete the work in its entirety and facilitate the Treaty's entry into force. This is why we have to redouble all efforts towards completing the outstanding ratifications required for its entry into force.

Madame Co-President, Mr Co-President, allow me to conclude by expressing Slovenia's high appreciation for the substantial work undertaken the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in Vienna ably headed by Ambassador Tibor Toth during the recent Fukushima disaster.

Madame Co-President, Mr Co-President, thank you.