

**STATEMENT by Delegation of UKRAINE  
at the 8<sup>th</sup> Article XIV Conference on facilitating entry into force  
of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**

27 September 2013

*Mr. President,  
Distinguished delegates,*

Today, seventeen years following the adoption of the CTBT in September 1996, we welcome the signing of the Treaty by Niue in 2012 and the latest ratifications by Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Guatemala and Indonesia. We commend that an Annex II country has assumed the responsibility by ratifying the Treaty, and call on other Annex II States who have yet to ratify the CTBT to do so at the earliest opportunity.

We would also like to use this opportunity to welcome Dr. Lassina Zerbo in his new capacity as Executive Secretary of the CTBTO. It was a pleasure hosting Dr. Zerbo recently in Kyiv, and we wish him all the best in carrying out his important mandate.

Ukraine believes that the CTBT contributes decisively to international peace and security since it establishes the highest international norms prohibiting all nuclear test explosions for military, civilian or any other purposes.

The current CTBT Article XIV conference process serves as another reminder that for the vast majority of states, the Treaty is a vital thread in the fabric of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament system.

By aiming to hamper the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons, the CTBT has an essential role to play in strengthening global peace and security, preventing proliferation of materials, technologies and knowledge that can be used for development of nuclear weapons.

Ukraine considers the verification system as the core of the CTBT and notes the growing effectiveness of the CTBT monitoring system. We are committed to continue making a strong contribution towards this goal, including through our hosting of PS45 International Monitoring Station.

Regarding the Integrated Field Exercise 2014 in Jordan, Ukraine places special emphasis on the preparation, conduct and evaluation of this event. We appreciate the opportunity given to States Signatories to observe the Build-Up Exercise III, which concluded successfully in June this year in Hungary.

*Mr. President,*

Despite these positive developments, the fact that CTBT has not yet entered into force is a matter for grave concern. It is obvious that vigorous efforts are still needed to ensure its universalization.

Pending its entry into force, Ukraine continues to urge all States to maintain moratorium on any nuclear test explosions and to refrain from any action contrary to the purposes of the Treaty.

We call upon those Annex 2 States whose ratification is required for Treaty's entry into force to sign and ratify it without delay and unconditionally. We welcome an ambitious plan of our Executive Secretary to attain this important goal and will support him in this endeavor.

*Distinguished delegates,*

Next year Ukraine will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear state. It has signed and ratified the CTBT, and it promotes early conclusion of FMCT. We have abandoned highly enriched uranium, and we shall host an international event this November to facilitate implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540.

As a champion of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and a victim of the unwanted nuclear meltdown at Chernobyl, Ukraine will continue to pave the way for the early entry into force and universalization of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.