

Statement of the Republic of Estonia
Delivered by Estonian Deputy Foreign Minister, Mrs. Kyllike Sillaste-Elling
Thirteenth Article XIV Conference in support of the Entry-into-Force of
the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
New York, 22 September 2023

Distinguished Co-Presidents, Dear Colleagues,

Estonia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. In addition, I would like to make some comments in my national capacity.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 10 September 1996. 27 years later, 187 states have signed the Treaty and 178 states have ratified it. However, there are still eight Annex II States remaining whose ratifications are needed for the Treaty to come into effect.

Estonia supports all international efforts towards the entry into force of the CTBT and urges all States, particularly the Annex II States, to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay. The entry into force of the Treaty is in all of our interest.

The CTBT is a key pillar of our collective security and an indispensable multilateral instrument to advance towards nuclear disarmament and prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions represent a serious threat to international peace and security, and undermine the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

We express our grave concern over Russia's announcement of its readiness to conduct nuclear tests, which is inconsistent with its signing and ratification of the CTBT and risks undermining confidence in the Treaty.

We call on all States to abide by a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, and to refrain from actions that would undermine the objectives of the Treaty.

Even though the CTBT is yet to enter into force, it is already a success story. Its verification regime and the effective work of the International Monitoring System make sure that no nuclear explosion goes undetected, enabling the international community to respond appropriately and deter non-compliance.

Thank you.