



7th Ministerial Meeting of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
Statement by
Hon. Mr. Tony deBrum
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of the Marshall Islands
26 September 2014
Trusteeship Council Chamber

Excellencies,

The Republic of the Marshall Islands is pleased to join in support of the Joint Ministerial Statement on the CTBT introduced at this meeting. As a nation which has recently ratified the CTBT, the Republic of the Marshall Islands shares with the world its own history and burden of the impacts of nuclear weapons testing. This must serve as a powerful reminder of the need to ensure the CTBT's entry into force. The Marshall Islands welcomes nations which have joined us in ratification, in particular Niue, and urges all states that have not done so to sign and ratify the Treaty, and urge in particular the remaining eight Annex 2 States to sign and ratify without delay.

It has been 68 years since the General Assembly in its very first resolution established a mechanism for the elimination from national arsenals of nuclear weapons and other weapons adaptable to mass destruction. It has been 46 years since the conclusion of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Yet today, we still fear the day where we are forced to relive the horrors. We do not want other people to suffer the same consequences we did!

The Marshall Islands is convinced that negotiations on achieving and sustaining a world free of nuclear weapons are overdue. Indeed we believe that states possessing nuclear arsenals are failing to fulfill their legal obligations in this regard. Immediate commencement and conclusion of such negotiations is required by legal obligation of nuclear disarmament resting upon each and every state under Article VI of the Non Proliferation Treaty and customary international law. It also would achieve the objective of nuclear disarmament long and consistently set by the United Nations, and fulfill our responsibilities to present and future generations while honoring the past ones.