



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**Speech of the Albanian Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ms. Megi Fino on Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) Conference**  
23 September 2021 Time TBD

Distinguished Co-Presidents,

The effective multilateralism, prevention of weapons of mass destruction and international cooperation are the three main pillars of our work. In this context, we promote universal adherence to and full implementation of all non-proliferation and disarmament treaties and conventions, in particular, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

We echo the calling for the universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its early entry into force, being constantly co-sponsors of the resolutions to convene the CTBT conference, in order to speed up its process of signatory and ratified states, which remains an indispensable contribution towards the World's peace and security. We also consider the need for an immediate start of negotiations and conclusion on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT).

Albania supports the disarmament agenda, including instruments such as arms control, non-proliferation, restrictions, confidence-building measures and even elimination, but without accepting the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty. In close cooperation and coordination with other relevant actors like UN, EU and NATO Partners, Albania will continue to work to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

The nuclear security and combating the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials is of high importance for Albania, as a participating State of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB) and, in the same time, as part of the global plan of the IAEA to fight against nuclear terrorism. We find the role of the IAEA as indispensable for the non-proliferation regime. We have a Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement with the IAEA and we also have signed and ratified the Additional Protocol.

We strongly support a sustained implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 regarding the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

The risk of terrorists or other non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction remains a real and serious threat to international security. We believe that 1540 Resolution is a very valuable instrument that provides guidance to Member States in taking all necessary measures to prevent non-state actors from an acquiring nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological weapons or the equipment necessary for their production.

Albania has approved a National Strategy and an Action Plan to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and it is a proactive contributor to the regional security concerning the WMDs.

We remain firmly committed to fulfill our engagements in enforcing the international and EU standards with regard to the fighting against the trafficking of conventional weapons. Aiming to establish international standards in addressing arms control issues, in line with the provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty, in July 2019, a new law, with strict operational rules, was adopted by the Albanian Parliament. During the recent years, there were amended three important laws, respectively those on weapons, on civilian use of explosives and on pyrotechnics.

Albania does not produce, store or transport nuclear, biological, chemical weapons or similar devices and does not provide any form of support and/or assistance to the non-state actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transfer or use the Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Albania aligns with the EU on advocating the CTBT's prompt entry into force and universalization in international fora, including at the upcoming Review Conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and with third countries that have not yet signed, or ratified the Treaty. In the same time, our country stands beside EU which dedicates the utmost importance to the extension of New START.

We recall that, under the Article VI of the NPT, all parties to the Treaty, including nuclear weapon States and non-nuclear weapon States, have committed themselves to pursuing negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. This is related to the Geneva Dialogue on Nuclear Disarmament Verification and its latest conclusions of the meeting of June 24-th, 2020.

As an elected non-permanent member to the Security Council of UN for the period 2022-2023, after a challenging but successful 2020 OSCE Chairmanship, Albania intends to contribute to the preservation and strengthening of the multilateral rule-based order by addressing global challenges and promoting peace and security through resolution of current crises, peaceful conflict settlement and through disarmament policies.

Thank you for your kind attention.