

**Statement by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of
Armenia H.E. Mr. Ashot Hovakimian**

On the occasion of 20th Anniversary of the opening for signature of the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Executive Secretary Zerbo,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has almost achieved universal adherence. Although the Treaty has not entered into force and it still requires political will and ongoing efforts towards full application, it has developed a robust global monitoring and verification systems with life-saving applications and established a de facto global moratorium on testing.

Armenia hosts one International Monitoring System (IMS) facility, an auxiliary seismic station at Garni. The station forms part of the global network of 337 IMS monitoring facilities which is being established under the terms of the CTBT to verify compliance with the terms of the Treaty. The monitoring facilities transmit data via satellite to the International Data Centre (IDC) in Vienna, where the data are used to detect, locate and characterize events. These data and IDC products are made available to the States Signatories for final analysis.

Armenia has been selected as one of the priority States in the context of the EU Joint Action Plan with the CTBTO. The European Commission and the CTBTO provide technical assistance to Armenia's Seismic Protection Agency aimed at increasing the capability of the National Data Centre.

Mr. Chairman,

The CTBT closely interacts with NPT, serving the same purpose of contributing to the regional and wider international security. Armenia is committed to the full and universal implementation of the treaties and non-proliferation policy. We urge our partners to combine joint actions in regional, sub-regional and international levels for their comprehensive implementation. Armenia fully supports the idea of the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones.

Mr. Chairman,

Armenia closely cooperates on a regular basis with the International organizations and partner countries with regard to all nuclear energy issues. Numerous on-site inspections and assessment missions have reaffirmed Armenia's commitment in

implementing its international obligations and the highest level of openness and transparency. No any non-compliance or deviation from the requirements of international treaties has been recorded. The Armenian Government took the decision on extension of the life cycle of the Metsamor NPP after thorough consultations with the IAEA and its international partners, and all possible measures are taken to ensure its safety and security. It is disappointing that Azerbaijan spreads in international fora in the most distorted and misleading manner the unfounded accusations, claiming that Armenia breaches its obligations on nuclear non-proliferation. This has nothing to do with reality. This irresponsible attitude is directed only at shifting the international attention from the large-scale aggressive military actions unleashed by Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh and the gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law committed by Azerbaijan, including against the civilian population.

Thank you.