



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
Amir Muharemi, Assistant Minister for Global Affairs
CTBT Twentieth Anniversary Ministerial Meeting
Vienna, 13 June 2016.

Chair

Your excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

giving (knowledge) to experience ourselves.

It is indeed a pleasure and honour to take the floor at this conference and speak briefly about the importance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of this crucial document.

Let me start by saying clearly that Croatia shares the view of many that the CTBT plays a pivotal role in reinforcing the global non-proliferation regime and sustaining the international efforts towards global disarmament.

The obvious key benefit of this Treaty is the establishment of a highly efficient global nuclear explosions detection network.

This verification regime is indispensable for international nuclear disarmament efforts, because it delivers, in a matter of moments, precise data on any and all nuclear tests done around the globe.

As a direct result of the presence of this Treaty, nuclear explosive tests nowadays are basically non-existent. *(1 excep. already mentioned)*

However, much work still needs to be done. We are all aware of the preconditions needed for this Treaty to enter into force.

At first glance, the numbers look great. 183 States Signatories, 164 ratifications. This is an outstanding result by any standard.

But the Treaty will enter into force only when all of 44 "Annex 2 states" complete their ratification procedures. We still have eight to go.

This year's 20th anniversary is a precious opportunity to invigorate our determination toward the end-goal: entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

What we need in this moment is political courage, sense of responsibility and leadership from those countries that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty.

Efforts of the international community towards the full universalisation of the CTBT have been substantial and consistent over the years.

Croatia is a member of the European Union, and as a group, we have demonstrated our commitment to the Treaty through numerous activities and initiatives, both Union as a whole and within our national capacities.

We have made it clear on every occasion and at many fora how our first political priority is support for universalisation and entry into force of the CTBT.

We have supported the fulfilment of our aims with concrete financial contributions.

And we will continue to do all of this, because firm, continuous promotion of the objectives of the Treaty and its significance for the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts is as essential as ever.

There are many open issues in the realm of disarmament and non-proliferation; some of them are in deadlock for many years now. But the nuclear-test-free world, which we still did not reach, seems like the very minimum – perhaps a starting point for other advances.

The CTBTO has organised many events already to commemorate this important anniversary. Today's ministerial meeting is perhaps one of the more prominent ones.

Our hope is that today's discussion, and the discussion which will take place at the PrepCom tomorrow and the day after will be constructive, and will add to the positive momentum we are sensing this year about the CTBT.

When the occasion comes, we need to seize it with both hands, lest we spend another five or ten years discussing how to do what needs to be done.

If the momentum is indeed building, if the CTBT is the next big thing in disarmament, we must all get on board now and do our parts.

Thank you for the attention.