



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**327 East 58<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10022**  
**TEL: (212) 336-0777 FAX: (212) 759-7672**



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**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. SOVANN KE**

**AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,  
OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE  
CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE  
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN-TREATY**

**NEW YORK  
23 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Co-Presidents,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

1. Let me begin by congratulating Italy and South Africa for assuming the role as Co-Presidents of the Conference and express my appreciation to the outgoing Co-Presidents, Germany and Algeria, for the important work they have done during their presidency. I would like to congratulate Dr. Robert Floyd for his appointment as Executive Secretary of CTBT.
2. The Conference has been held for twelve times in 25 years since the Treaty was opened for signature in 1996 and the Treaty has yet to enter into force. It is high time for countries to sign and ratify the Treaty to allow the entry into force, which will provide tremendous contribution to international peace and security, as well prevention of a nuclear catastrophe that will take decades to heal.
3. We see with great concerns some of the nuclear states have continued to conduct nuclear tests to show off their capabilities, which have led to high political tensions among the rivalries and caused insecurity. Humankind have the right to live out their lives peacefully without the fear of nuclear devastation and all other weapons of mass destruction. My delegation appeals that this right be fully respected.
4. In this context, Cambodia fully supports the entry into force of the CTBT, which will serve as a legally binding instrument to prevent any nuclear weapon test explosions or any nuclear explosion anywhere in the world through its strict monitoring, verification, and compliance. This will work to protect the safety of people from the harmful aftermath of nuclear testing and the serious consequence on people's health, livelihood and environment.
5. As the 67th State to ratify the Treaty, Cambodia welcomes the Member States that have just signed and ratified the Treaty. The Treaty has almost achieved its universality, with 185 signatures and 170 ratifications. Cambodia urges the remaining States in Annex II to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay.
6. Cambodia is proud to emphasize that all 10 Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have ratified the CTBT, which demonstrates our strong commitment to the international norm against nuclear testing consistent with the principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. We are committed to preserving our region as a zone free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.
7. **Finally, Co-Presidents,** Cambodia reaffirms its unwavering commitment and support for the CTBT and welcomes the successful adoption of the Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of this important Treaty. Together, we gather as the nations of the world and together we can stand up to our responsibilities and make the world a safer place to live in.

I thank you for your kind attention.