

25 September 2019

**2019 CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE
OF
THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)**

Dear Mr. Secretary-General!

Dear Mr. Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Kyrgyz Republic considers the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to be one of the most fundamental and effective international instruments in the area of nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

The Kyrgyz Republic remains committed to the goals of global disarmament and prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and is an active supporter of a nuclear weapon free world.

Today the majority of countries have signed and ratified the Treaty that reflects almost unanimous recognition among members of the international community of the necessity to prohibit nuclear testing.

In spite of significant progress towards its acceptance, however, the Treaty still has not entered into force. In this regard we call upon all governments to ratify the Treaty at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Chairman!

Unfortunately, today we are witnessing the destruction of the existing nuclear arms control system, which is a dangerous trend for all mankind. International agreements and arrangements that have been the key to maintaining political balance and strategic stability over the past decades cease to exist.

In this regard, the early entry into force of Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is of particular importance and significance for peace and security on the planet. Along with this, we need to jointly begin the process of forming a new arms control system, as well as reflect on new mechanisms for maintaining a nuclear-free world.

As it is known, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is one of the effective approaches to achieving disarmament and non-proliferation objectives, including a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing. In this regard, the Kyrgyz Republic welcomes the establishment of such zones in various regions of the world. Moreover, Kyrgyzstan welcomes the entry-into-force of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and ratification of its Protocol on negative security assurances by four of five nuclear powers, namely France, the United Kingdom, Russia and China. We encourage the United States to ratify this instrument without any delay.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We are additionally encouraged by the political support for the Treaty followed by its robust verification regime. To date, 90% of the objects of the international monitoring system have already been established, including the auxiliary seismic station (AS060) of the MSM seismic monitoring system in Kyrgyzstan. In our view the current monitoring system has a considerable potential for the civil and scientific use in the context of its wide opportunities for an early warning system for natural disasters. This utility should serve as an additional motive for the completion of the IMS and the Treaty's ratification.

In pursuit of this objective, we encourage the international community to consider new ways to surmount the challenges that have stymied the Treaty's entry into force in the past. On this basis, we welcome the activity of the CTBT Group of Eminent Persons and Youth Group that serves both to educate the next generation about the Treaty and stimulate critical thinking about ways to achieve its entry into force. Kyrgyzstan has long recognized the importance of disarmament and nonproliferation education as an effective—but underutilized—tool to mitigate the threat of nuclear weapons. In this spirit, we applaud the CTBTO for supporting the efforts of the next generation in achieving the entry into force of the Treaty and for recognizing the contributions its members can make to strengthen the nonproliferation regime.

In closing, we wish to reiterate the steadfast support of the government of Kyrgyzstan for the CTBTO and for the early entry into force of this Treaty. In this regard, we support the Final Declaration of the Conference and the measures reflected in it to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty.

Thank you.