



SLOVAKIA

Statement by

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the Slovak Republic

Head of Delegation

**Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

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Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations

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Mr. (Co-) President,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

First of all, I would like to thank Secretary-General of the United Nations for convening the Eighth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, in New York and congratulate H.E. János Martonyi, Foreign Minister of Hungary and H. E. Marty Natalegawa, Foreign Minister of Indonesia on their election as Co-Presidents of the Conference. Let me also express my gratitude and appreciation to both outgoing Article XIV coordinators, Mexico and Sweden for their work during the last two years.

Slovakia believes that Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty should enter into force as soon as possible. We consider this Treaty to be an important pillar in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and a useful tool of strengthening global peace and security.

My country signed the joint declaration of foreign ministers during the sixth ministerial meeting of CTBT in September 2012 in New York. This declaration has sent a clear political message of support to the early entry into force of the Treaty and highlighted the important role of the Treaty towards the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons. With regard to the above Slovakia attaches great importance to current Eighth conference in accordance with Article XIV CTBT and its purpose.

Slovakia continues to support activities of CTBTO in fulfilling its mandate. In particular we are actively engaged in the field of training of inspectors and testing of monitoring equipment. By offering our capacities for

training of inspectors CTBTO my country strives to play an active role in developing and enhancing unique verification regime with aim to achieve its full preparation for the moment of entry of the Treaty into force.

The international community condemned the latest nuclear test of DPRK in February 2013 as a grave violation of its international obligations, once again reiterated the relevance of this important international instrument and confirmed significance and readiness of CTBT monitoring system.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the former Executive Secretary of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) Mr. Tibor Tóth for his contribution towards enhancing the capabilities and readiness of the organization for its important role. I wish all the success and pledge my support to the new Executive Secretary Mr. Lassina Zerbo.

Mr. (Co-) President,

To conclude my remarks, let me express hope that our joint call for early entry of the Treaty into force will move us closer to our common goal – a world free of nuclear explosions.

Thank you.