

**STATEMENT  
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**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SLOVENIA**

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**Mr. Executive Secretary, Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me begin by saying that I **fully subscribe to the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**. In addition, I would like to contribute to this important discussion by making some additional points on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty **set up an important international standard: no more atomic bomb explosions**. Twenty years after its adoption in the United Nations General Assembly we can say that nuclear tests are now regarded as an anomaly and an aberration, carried out against the globally accepted norms of behavior. This positive development can be entirely attributed to the Treaty, which represents one of the biggest achievements in the efforts to maintain international peace and stability.

Slovenia therefore highly appreciates the work of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in Vienna. Although still provisional, it is an **organization with a truly global presence and unique capabilities**. Not only can it monitor the planet for signs of nuclear tests, but it is also able to put its worldwide network to other important uses. Among these are warnings on natural disasters, such as earthquakes and tsunamis, as well as monitoring of accidents, such as the one in Fukushima.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank Dr. Lassina Zerbo, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO, as well as the Provisional Technical Secretariat for their hard work and commitment. The expertise needed for the maintenance and continued development of the International Monitoring System is impressive. This is also one of the reasons why we believe **it is important to have the Treaty enter into force as soon as possible, as it would also benefit the staff of the Organization.** Let me therefore call upon all States, particularly the remaining eight from Annex 2, to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay and preconditions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to return to **the issue of nuclear tests**. Slovenia is highly concerned that the DPRK still conducts them. In our view this represents a grave violation of its international obligations, especially in light of several United Nations Security Council resolutions. Such behaviour poses a serious threat to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula, as well as in Northeast Asia and beyond.

Slovenia therefore calls on the DPRK to refrain from additional provocative and dangerous acts and to re-engage with the international community in a credible and meaningful manner, especially in the framework of the Six-Party Talks. We also urge the DPRK to accede to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, I would like to emphasize that **for Slovenia the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation remains at the forefront of our concerns.**

I would like to recognize and stress the important role that the CTBT plays in preventing not only horizontal, but also vertical proliferation. This is an aspect of the Treaty that is sometimes overlooked, although it can play a very important role in the process of worldwide nuclear disarmament.

Finally, let me say that **Slovenia demonstrated its full commitment to the letter and spirit of the Treaty by hosting the twelfth annual NATO Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction Arms Control, Disarmament, and Non-proliferation in Ljubljana at the beginning of May.** Since the Executive Secretary was the keynote speaker at the event, the CTBT was one of the prominent topics discussed. We believe that the conference represented yet another step forward in our common non-proliferation endeavors and in our joint efforts to highlight the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this important Treaty.

I thank you for your attention.

