



SLOVENIA

Check against delivery!

STATEMENT

BY MR. KARL ERJAVEC
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SLOVENIA

AT THE OCCASION OF
THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY
ARTICLE XIV CONFERENCE

New York, 27 September 2013

Mr Co-presidents, Mr Secretary-General, Mr Executive Secretary, Excellencies, distinguished colleagues ministers, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me first to congratulate you minister Martony of Hungary and Minister Natalegawe of Indonesia for your election as co-presidents of the Eighth session of the CTBT Article Fourteen Conference.

Today you are taking over important responsibility and demanding task of coordinators of our efforts to facilitate entry into force of the Treaty. I would like to express Slovenia's support in your future endeavours in your new capacity. We hope that during your term we will have new signatures and ratifications of the Treaty.

At this occasion, I would also like to thank colleagues from Mexico and Sweden as outgoing coordinators for your work and tireless efforts for the universalization of the CTBT.

Mr Co-presidents,

Apart from what has already been stated previously on behalf of the European Union, I would like to underline in my national capacity our enthusiasm for the renewed global debate on disarmament, non-proliferation and for our final goal: creation of world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

The Treaty and the CTBT Organisation represent important piece of the big picture. The Treaty is indeed a success story: 159 States parties, 183 members of the Organisation, with strong and robust International Monitoring System. This system provides us with effective, reliable, participatory and non-discriminatory Treaty's verification regime, consisted of 276 monitoring facilities from all over the world. We look forward to see installation of remaining monitoring facilities.

Slovenia actively supports rapid entry into force of the Treaty and calls upon all states, particularly those eight states listed in the Annex II, to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay and without any condition.

The Treaty set up important standard in the international community: no more nuclear explosions, no more nuclear tests. Today we practically don't see nuclear tests anymore. Unfortunately, nuclear tests such as the one carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in February this year, which we univocally condemned, occasionally still occur.

Slovenia highly appreciates professional and substantial work undertaken by the Provisional Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organization in Vienna. I would like to use this opportunity to thank outgoing Executive Secretary Ambassador Tibor Toth for his work, persistence and vision and welcome Dr Lassina Zerbo, who recently took over important task as Executive Secretary of the Organisation. Dr Zerbo, "soyez bienvenu!" I wish you lots of success on the helm.

Mr Co-presidents,

These days, we mark the 17th anniversary of the Treaty. Our predecessors completed their task by drafting and signing the Treaty. Our generations' task is to complete the work in its entirety by facilitating its entry into force, by effectively implementing the treaty and by making it universal. This should be our generations' ultimate contribution to our ideal and ultimate goal – a world free of nuclear weapons.

I thank you Mr Co-presidents