



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Statement by K. Nilvana Darama, Deputy Director General
for the OSCE, Arms Control and Disarmament to the
Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
(New York, 27 September 2013)**

Madame President,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Turkey associates itself with the EU statement delivered this morning, but in light of the importance we attach to the CTBT, I would like to make additional remarks in our national capacity.

Before I begin, let me take this opportunity to welcome Dr. Lassina Zerbo as the new Executive Secretary of the CTBTO. Dr. Zerbo and his team can count on the full support of Turkey while discharging their duties.

Let me also extend our thanks and appreciation to Mexico and Sweden as previous Article XIV co-presidents. We congratulate Hungary and Indonesia on their assumption of the presidency and assure them of our full support and cooperation.

Madame President,

The CTBT was characterized as "the longest sought, hardest fought prize in the history of arms control negotiations". It took half a century of advocacy for a verified, permanent, global ban on all types of nuclear explosive tests and a lot of hard work before the CTBT was opened for signature.

Already before its entry into force, the Treaty's effectiveness has proven itself as a major building block in the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

The fact that this key instrument has not yet entered into force, however, is regrettable. It is high time that we make tangible progress towards its entry into force. Turkey views the Article XIV Conferences as a significant opportunity to underpin this necessity.

A renewed political will is needed in order to pursue ratification, in particular by the remaining Annex II States. Such a political push will bring about a new impetus to our efforts to achieve the earliest possible entry into force of this key Treaty.

Let me, therefore, make an urgent appeal to the remaining states to move ahead with their respective national processes, without further delay.

Naturally, if nuclear weapon states take the lead, it will create a major impetus. Nevertheless, non-nuclear weapon states should also move ahead without waiting for the others.

One bold step will create a bigger leap elsewhere. We commend, in this respect, the ratifications by the two new States who have recently joined the CTBT family.

Pending the entry into force, the only mechanism we have at hand is the voluntary moratoria on nuclear weapon tests.

Albeit not legally binding, all states need to diligently uphold these moratoria for the moment, in order to safely proceed to our ultimate goal of making the binding Treaty enter into force.

Excellencies,

Turkey was among the first signatories of the CTBT and since its inception, we have faithfully honoured our commitments deriving from the Treaty.

Apart from an active cooperation with the CTBTO at the technical level, including through its International Monitoring System, Turkey is also politically engaged in raising broad awareness about the objectives of the Treaty and encouraging its ratification.

We pursue these efforts with steadfast commitment, on a bilateral level and collectively with others, most notably through the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.

I thank you for your attention.