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**Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force  
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**  
New York, 22 September 2023

**PROGRESS REPORT ON  
THE CO-PRESIDENCY BY ITALY AND SOUTH AFRICA  
OF THE ARTICLE XIV PROCESS  
FROM SEPTEMBER 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 2023**

1. Italy and South Africa assumed the co-presidency of the Twelfth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) (Article XIV conference) on 23 September 2021. Since then, both countries, as the Co-Coordinator for the entry into force of the CTBT, have led and coordinated international efforts for the promotion of the Treaty's entry into force and universalization. During their tenure, Dominica and Somalia signed the CTBT, and Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, the Gambia, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, São Tomé and Príncipe, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka ratified the Treaty. Today, the CTBT has 187 States Signatories, of which 178 have also ratified the Treaty.
2. During their tenure, Italy and South Africa conducted many activities, individually or jointly, based on the Action Plan which set out the measures to be taken by the Co-Coordinator in support of implementing the Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty adopted at the 2021 Article XIV conference. In spite of the negative impact of the sanitary measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Co-Coordinator implemented numerous activities of the Action Plan, including the following:
  - (1) Approaches by Italy and South Africa to non-ratifying States
    - Italy and South Africa, individually and jointly, made invitations on numerous occasions, to the remaining Annex 2 and other non-ratifying States, at political and ambassadorial levels, throughout their tenure as Co-Coordinator. Further steps were undertaken in Rome, Pretoria and Vienna, as well as in New York and through diplomatic missions in various Capitals. On these occasions, the Co-Coordinator highlighted the importance of the entry into force of the CTBT, called for non-ratifying States' signature and

ratification of the Treaty and for their increased engagement with the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization's (CTBTO) International Monitoring System (IMS), while bearing in mind the country specific context of each non-ratifying State.

- In particular, Italy engaged bilaterally with Nepal, Papua New Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tonga and Yemen on advancing their signature/ratification.
- South Africa through bilateral engagements encouraged Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritius, Nepal, São Tomé and Príncipe, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Tonga to sign and/or ratify the Treaty. In addition, the South African Deputy Minister for International Relations and Cooperation, HE Alvin Botes, in his capacity as the Member of the Group of Eminent Persons continued to advocate for the entry into force of the Treaty in his bilateral engagements.
- In their national capacities, Italy and South Africa recalled in various international meetings and forums their support for the Treaty and the importance they attach to its entry into force. Italy and South Africa repeatedly called for the prompt entry into force of the Treaty in their respective statements in all relevant fora. They actively participated in sessions of the Preparatory Commission and its Working Groups A and B and contributed to the maintenance and strengthening of the CTBT verification regime by facilitating the participation of experts in CTBTO meetings.
- Italy ensured to insert a paragraph on the Statement of G7 Non-Proliferation Directors Group (9 May 2022) underlining the urgent need to bring the CTBT into force pursuant to Article XIV. The same language was recalled as well in the G7 Foreign Ministers Communiqué of May 14, 2022.
- Italy also actively participated, delivering statements in support of the universalization of the Treaty, in: a briefing at the United Nations Security Council, organized by Ireland, to mark the 25th anniversary of the CTBT; the United Nations General Assembly's First Committee; the High-Level Segment of the Conference on Disarmament; the 10th NPT Review Conference; the first session of the Preparatory Commission to the eleventh Review Conference of the NPT.
- South Africa expressed its strong support for the entry into force of the Treaty in its statements to disarmament and non-proliferations forums including the 10th NPT Review Conference and the Preparatory Committee for the 11th NPT Review Conference. Furthermore, South Africa served as a panelist in the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the CTBT which advocates for the entry of the Treaty into force.
- Italy's strong support for the CTBT was reflected in its sponsorship and vote in favour of General Assembly resolution 76/66, entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty".

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- Italy also co-sponsored a working paper entitled “Interlinkage between the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons” at the 10th NPT Review Conference.
  - Italy and South Africa co-chaired the Article XIV conference in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (23 September 2021).
  - Italy and South Africa took advantage of various international and regional conferences to recall the importance of achieving the goals of the CTBT and to promote its entry into force. Italy and South Africa actively participated in the High-Level Panel “Advancing Universalization and Entry into Force” of the Opening Session of the CTBTO’s 3rd Science Diplomacy Symposium, and in the EU-CTBTO panel “EU-CTBTO Cooperation in Action” at the 7th CTBTO Science and Technology Conference.
- (2) Raising awareness among stakeholders and citizens
- The Governments of Italy and South Africa promoted the goal of a world without nuclear tests in official publications, on the web sites of their Foreign Ministries, and in presentations and speeches given to civil society by government officials.
3. Reflecting on the wide range of activities conducted throughout their tenure, the Co-Coordicators have made the following observations:
- The vast majority of the international community has recognized that the entry into force of the CTBT is a practical and pragmatic way to advance nuclear disarmament as envisaged in the NPT. Furthermore, the Treaty plays a critical role in responding to the challenge posed by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea by reinforcing the no test norm. Therefore, efforts shall be continued to finish this ‘unfinished business’.
  - It is important to make continued political commitments and efforts to facilitate the signature and ratification of the CTBT by the remaining Annex 2 States. In particular, efforts should be made to approach these States at the highest political level where appropriate and practical, in order to engage decision makers and to encourage further signature and ratification of the Treaty.
  - Emphasis should be placed on making joint international efforts to address issues that present obstacles for the remaining Annex 2 States to sign and ratify the CTBT. In this regard, making efforts at a regional level can be instrumental and beneficial to creating an environment conducive to ratification.
  - Some non-signatory States, including those of the remaining Annex 2 States, might participate as an observer as a first step towards signature.
  - Enhanced efforts are encouraged for the remaining Annex 2 and other States that have not yet done so to establish IMS stations on their territories and transfer data to the International Data Centre. Continued international cooperation in capacity building for National Data Centres, particularly in developing countries, is needed to further strengthen the verification regime for the detection of nuclear testing.

4. Two years of Co-Coordiators' activities offered valuable lessons for future activities of the Article XIV process. While the drafting of and subsequent consultations on the Final Declaration towards the 2021 Article XIV conference were among the highlights of the Co-Coordiators' activities, these were just the beginning of their activities. Indeed, experiences and insights were accumulated through their persistent outreach and other promotional activities following the conference, in particular through their close engagement with the remaining Annex 2 and other non-ratifying States. These activities are all the more important for the promotion of the Treaty and allow the Co-Coordiators to move the Treaty forward more actively and effectively.
5. In this regard, it is worth recalling that paragraph 2 of Article XIV of the Treaty provides that the Article XIV conference "shall examine the extent to which the requirement set out in paragraph 1 has been met and shall consider and decide by consensus what measures consistent with international law may be undertaken to accelerate the ratification process in order to facilitate the early entry into force of this Treaty." In light of the goal and purpose of the conference stipulated in the Treaty, the conference should provide a useful platform for ratifying and signatory States to discuss and decide on practical and pragmatic ways to promote the ratification process by which to facilitate the Treaty's entry into force. As 27 years have passed since the opening of the Treaty for signature, it is high time to review practices up until now and thereby revitalize the conference mechanism in order to fully advance its objective and renew international commitment to realizing the cause of the Treaty.
6. As Norway and Panama have been elected co-presidents of the Thirteenth Article XIV conference in 2023, Italy and South Africa reaffirm their commitment and readiness to work closely with the incoming co-presidents, as well as with other countries to further advocate the noble cause of a comprehensive and global test ban on a nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.