**202I Article XIV Conference**

**Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**

**23. September 2021**

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Đorđe Radulović Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro**

Dear Ministers,

Excellences,

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the year in which we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, we can confidently say that the CTBT has reaffirmed its worth as a core pillar that underpins the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

This anniversary is an opportunity for a certain reflection of main achievements of the Organization, not as a customary manner, but above all as a reminder that without the lasting and legally binding effect of entering into force of the Treaty, peace and stability will be in danger.

The CTBT has come up near to the universal adherence. However, we still need ratifications by remaining countries listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty. This stalemate must be overcome. This is why we should use this momentum as a robust reminder of unfinished business and a pledge to dedicate ourselves individually and jointly to move forward in transforming the nuclear test ban in a legal reality.

We are strongly committed to the objectives of the CTBT, to its entry into force and universalization, and to strengthening the CTBTO verification regime.

Montenegro particularly welcomes the results of the International Monitoring System and the International Data Center, which have proven as reliable and helpful mechanisms in raising preparedness for natural disasters, enabling a timely response and better protection lives of civilians globally.

We applaud all the CTBTO achievements over the years.

I would like to reiterate that Montenegro stands ready to contribute to the further joint efforts to address the threats of nuclear weapons and make the world a safer place to our children. We will continue to act proactively towards our common goal, the universalization of membership, the entry into force of the Treaty, and ultimately, the complete elimination of nuclear tests.

Thank you.