**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AT THE 2021 ARTICLE XIV CONFERENCE**

**DELIVERED BY**

**AMBASSADOR UMEJ BHATIA, 23 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Co-Presidents

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

1. Singapore welcomes the Declaration that was adopted at the beginning of this Conference, which sets out concrete and actionable steps towards achieving the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The CTBT is an integral part of the global non-proliferation and arms control architecture. It plays an essential and complementary role to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) by ensuring that vertical nuclear proliferation does not take place even as we seek to prevent horizontal proliferation. Taken together, such multilateral regimes remain critical in addressing the threat to mankind posed by nuclear weapons.
2. The entry into force of the CTBT is long overdue. A test ban treaty that is in effect will allow the CTBT verification regime to fully verify compliance by Member States, including through its International Monitoring System (IMS) and On-Site Inspection capabilities. Singapore thus joins others in calling on the remaining Annex II States to ratify the Treaty, and enabling its entry into force.
3. The Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organisation (CTBTO), under the leadership of Executive Secretary Robert Floyd, has an important responsibility to prepare for the entry into force of the Treaty. To date, almost ninety percent of the facilities that will constitute the IMS have already been installed. Singapore welcomes this progress as well as the capacity building and training provided to developing countries to support their activities in this regard.
4. Today’s Conference provides an opportunity for all of us to reaffirm our commitment to the CTBT, and demonstrate the importance of this treaty to global nuclear non-proliferation. The CTBT was conceived as part of a suite of efforts towards achieving a world without nuclear weapons. Let us work together to realise that vision.
5. Thank you.

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293 Words (approx. 2.3 minutes at 130 wpm)