

JOINT STATEMENT
by Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe
and President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev
on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
27 October, 2015, Astana

We, the Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan reaffirm our commitment to realizing a world free of nuclear weapons and consider it a main goal of humanity in the 21st century. As a core and indispensable element in our efforts to that end, we renew our strong commitment to sparing no effort in achieving the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as the both countries assumed Co-Coordinatorship of Article XIV of CTBT for the entry into force of the Treaty in 2015-2017.

We note that in August 2015 the international community recalled 70 years since the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We also note that next year will mark the 25th anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, the 20th anniversary since the opening for signature of the CTBT, as well as the 10th anniversary since the signing of the Semipalatinsk Treaty on establishing the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia.

These historic moments once again remind us of the need to extend the non-use record of nuclear weapons until they are eliminated as well as to strengthen the resolve to ensure the mankind never experiences the long-lasting tragic effect of nuclear weapon use or nuclear weapon tests.

As countries which experienced and are fully aware of the threat of nuclear weapons, Japan and Kazakhstan share the moral authority and responsibility to raise the awareness of the people throughout the world about the humanitarian catastrophes nuclear weapons have brought about. With this special mission in mind, Japan and Kazakhstan are determined to work together closely pursuing a world free of nuclear weapons.

We welcome the fact that the CTBT has achieved near universal adherence with signature by 183 States and ratification by 164 States as of today, and our countries will work together to urge all States that have not done so to sign and ratify the Treaty as earlier as possible.

Yet we remain strongly concerned that the CTBT has not entered into force and urge the remaining eight Annex 2 States, whose ratification is

necessary for the entry into force of the CTBT, to sign and ratify the CTBT without further delay.*

We fully support the various initiatives to promote the early entry into force of the CTBT at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, including the Group of Eminent Persons.

We call upon all States to continue the moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions, the process on which the closure of the Semipalatinsk test site in August 1991 had positive impact. Japan and Kazakhstan share the view that, although not a substitute for legal obligations, with the continued moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions, nuclear test ban has become a *de facto* norm of the international community.

In this regard, we strongly deplore North Korea's nuclear tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013 in clear violation of its international obligations and urge North Korea to refrain from conducting further nuclear tests. We also urge North Korea to fully comply with the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and to take concrete steps towards denuclearization.

We appeal to all States to make the utmost effort to achieve the prompt entry into force of the CTBT. We dedicate ourselves individually and jointly to realizing this honorable goal.

**PRIME MINISTER
OF JAPAN
SHINZO ABE**

**PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV**

* There are eight remaining Annex 2 states, whose ratification is necessary for entry into force: China, North Korea, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Pakistan and the United States of America.