

Statement by H.E. Mr. Seiji Kihara, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
CTBT Twentieth Anniversary Meeting
13 June 2016, Vienna

His Excellency Mr. Lazar Comanescu, Chairperson of the Preparatory
Commission for the CTBTO,
Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Provisional Secretariat of the
Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO,
Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

I feel honored to represent my government at this important meeting which commemorates the 20th year of the adoption of the Treaty. The CTBT serves as a key function of placing a qualitative cap on nuclear development. It is one of the few concrete measures in this area that now has near universal support of the international community. Having recently received President Obama of the United States in Hiroshima following the visits by the G7 foreign ministers, we would like to build upon the momentum that has been developed, to strive towards a world free of nuclear weapons. The CTBT is a crucial and effective step to achieve this goal.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is regrettable that the CTBT has not yet come into force. However, it is important for us all to acknowledge significant progress that has been made in the past 20 years.

First, the CTBT has contributed to helping consolidate universal norm against nuclear testing. Strong international condemnation against North Korea's nuclear testing has proved that.

Second, the development of verification system under the Treaty has shown remarkable progress. Approximately 90 percent of the International

Monitoring System (IMS) has now been established with cooperation of states including the non-ratifying Annex 2 countries. The IMS functioned well in the past nuclear tests, including on the occasion of North Korea's nuclear test in January this year, and has certainly worked as deterrence.

We should not underestimate these progresses. Rather, we should redouble our efforts in realizing our common goal. There is no doubt that we are all united in supporting the causes on which we agreed 20 years ago.

In this regard, Japan is prepared to take a leading role and further work with our partners, including our NPDI colleagues. Last September, at the Article XIV Conference of the CTBT, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida outlined three areas of focus to promote the process: political efforts at highest levels possible; further development of the IMS; and sharing the awareness of the use of nuclear weapons.

On the political commitment, I would like to point out that, among others, in April, G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the early entry into force of the Treaty as illustrated in their Hiroshima Declaration which was later endorsed by the G7 Leaders. Japan also issued joint statements with Kazakhstan, as the coordinators for the Article XIV process, to urge the states which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty.

Regarding the development of the IMS, I would like to announce that Japan will double the number of trainees we invite to the Global Seismological Observation Training course starting this year. The course aims at providing knowledge and techniques for detecting nuclear tests. It also provides an opportunity for outreaching to non-signatory states including remaining Annex 2 States.

As a part of efforts to promote the awareness about the realities of the use of nuclear weapons, Japan encourages people around the world to visit

Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan also supports the activities of *Hibakusha*, atomic bomb survivors. As most of *Hibakusha* are in their 80s and 90s, there is an urgent need to pass on the realities of the consequences of nuclear weapons across borders and generations, particularly to the youth.

In addition, even before the entry into force of the CTBT, we can pursue all possible ways that are effective in strengthening the norm against nuclear tests. Issuing political statements individually or jointly by all states that hold nuclear weapons declaring commitment to moratorium on nuclear test explosions, for example, will effectively serve this purpose.

Mr. Chairperson,

In closing, I would like to stress the importance of making persistent efforts towards the entry into force of the CTBT. We are all fully aware that this is not an easy task, but we should keep in mind that the CTBT is a most practical and effective measure for a world free of nuclear weapons. We must be proud of the achievement made so far and keep on trying with a conviction that we are on a right track.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.