

**Statement by Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, at the
13th Conference on Facilitating the Entry-
into-Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-
Test-Ban Treaty
(22 September 2023, New York)**

Dr. Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the
PTS of the Preparatory Commission for the
CTBTO,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Japan attaches great importance to the
early entry into force of the CTBT as a realistic
and practical nuclear disarmament measure.

We underscored the significance of the
treaty in the Hiroshima Action Plan and also
highlighted it in the G7 Leaders' Hiroshima
Vision on Nuclear Disarmament.

The CTBT serves to place a qualitative
cap on nuclear weapons development. It is one
of the few concrete disarmament measures
that now has near universal support.

The relevance of the CTBT has never been greater than today. Concerns have been voiced that some countries may resume nuclear testing. The possibility of a further nuclear test by North Korea looms large.

Such concerns make bringing the CTBT into force our urgent priority.

Japan is also committed to strengthening the verification system of the CTBT. We hosted the CTBT Regional Conference this July to support capacity building of participating countries for operating the International Monitoring System.

By enlarging the circle of ratifying states and making the IMS more reliable, we are already making an effective deterrent to nuclear testing and establishing an international norm against nuclear tests.

But of course, we cannot rest until the norm against nuclear testing is legally binding. In this regard, Japan continues to urge all states, in particular the remaining States listed in Annex 2, to sign and ratify the Treaty.

Furthermore, pending its entry into force, Japan urges all relevant states to declare new or maintain existing moratoriums on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other test explosions.

Let us advance together towards the complete universalization of the Treaty. I promise Japan's unwavering contribution towards this goal.

Thank you.
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