

Speech by H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
at the Eighth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Co-Chairs,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first of all extend my profound appreciation to the Co-Chairs, and to Dr. Zerbo, the Executive-Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), and to all the delegations and staff members who have worked hard in preparation for this meeting today.

As I remarked at the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament yesterday, eliminating nuclear weapons from our world is a goal which is very close to my heart, as Foreign Minister of the only country ever to have experienced atomic bombings, and as someone born and raised in one of the cities bombed. Although the CTBT is yet to come into force, the prohibition of nuclear tests is an emerging de facto international norm.

Today, I would like to propose three actions to be taken so as to further strengthen this norm and ensure the comprehensive ban on nuclear tests; 1) taking united and determined actions as one united international community to condemn nuclear tests if and when they are conducted; 2) moving quickly forward with the construction and certification of the

International Monitoring System (IMS) stations to complete the IMS; and
3) enhancing political actions by each State to promote prompt ratifications by Annex 2 States (whose ratifications are necessary for the CTBT to enter into force).

Co-Chairs,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me start with the first action. In February this year, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) shocked the whole world when it conducted its third nuclear test. The fact that many countries, including those represented here today, expressed an immediate and united condemnation against this test, which clearly violated relevant Security Council resolutions, is testimony to the growing resolve of the international community as a whole never to condone a nuclear test.

It is the actions and deeds of sovereign States which form the norms of the international community. With that in mind, it is of utmost importance that the whole international community take a united stand to express clearly its strong condemnation if a nuclear test is regrettably conducted again.

Furthermore, it is equally essential to send a powerful signal of the international community's united opposition to nuclear testing by fully implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions regarding nuclear tests.

Secondly, I would like to emphasise the importance of advancing the construction and certification of the IMS stations to complete this vital

component of the CTBT verification regime. The IMS is now more than 80% complete - 82% of the stations listed in Annex 1 of the Protocol to the Treaty have been officially certified by the CTBTO and are currently operational. The world strongly desires the completion of the remaining stations.

The IMS was proven to be of significant value when the DPRK conducted its nuclear test last February – we were able to ascertain the situation very quickly with the data transmitted to the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO from the IMS stations located in the neighbouring countries, including Japan. It is thus important to accelerate the development of this international network to detect nuclear tests, as it will contribute to making the international norm I mentioned earlier even more solid.

In light of this, Japan welcomes the progress made during the visit by Executive-Secretary Dr. Zerbo to China this summer, where an agreement was reached to proceed with the provision of data from the IMS stations in China to the CTBTO, as a part of the formal process to certify those stations. Japan hopes to see steady progress in that process.

I am convinced that the IMS has great significance for all countries irrespective of their status vis-a-vis ratification of the Treaty, since it could effectively function with the involvement of non-ratifying countries. I would like to call upon all countries to maximise their efforts and to cooperate towards the establishment and completion of the IMS stations all over the world.

Co-Chairs,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thirdly and lastly, I would like to draw your attention to the necessity of enhancing political actions, given that political momentum for promoting nuclear disarmament is building up. Since Dr. Zerbo took office as the Executive-Secretary last month, the CTBTO has established a Group of Eminent Persons, whose first meeting was held here in New York yesterday. I am pleased to report that H.E. Ambassador Nobuyasu Abe, former Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament and currently Director of Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-proliferation in Japan, participated in the meeting. Japan firmly and fully supports this initiative. Japan also welcomes the renewed indication by President Obama, expressed in his speech delivered in Berlin this June, that he would work to build support for the ratification of the CTBT.

Against this background, we should all consider the coming year as a period in which we should reinforce our clear and strong opposition to nuclear tests, to increase the momentum for early entry into force of the CTBT. I would therefore propose that all countries step up the political actions to promote ratification of the Treaty by Annex 2 States.

More specifically, 1) I would like to call upon non-ratifying Annex 2 States to take individual initiatives towards early signature and ratification of the Treaty, regardless of the situation in other States; and 2) I would also like to call upon all ratifying countries to spare no effort in their high-level

political communications to encourage non-signatory and non-ratifying countries to sign and ratify the Treaty.

Japan will also make a high level effort to urge the non-signatory and non-ratifying countries, in particular Annex 2 States, to sign and ratify the Treaty. I promise that I will make all efforts, together with my friends and colleagues in different countries, to confirm the resolution of the international community that it will not condone nuclear tests, and to realise the earliest possible entry into force of the Treaty.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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