

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan  
at the Tenth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the  
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty  
20 September 2017, New York**

Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO,

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the last two years, Japan, as the only country that suffered from atomic bombings, has strived to facilitate the entry into force of the CTBT, together with Kazakhstan as we fully share a strong desire to advance nuclear disarmament. We issued Joint Statements on CTBT at the summit level twice. Japan individually has also exerted best efforts to that end. I would like to share with you today the outcomes and lessons learned through our experience.

But before that, I must mention the most important point. While CTBT has not come into effect, prohibition of nuclear testing has been functioning as a de facto international norm. Since the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, no country has conducted nuclear testing with one exception. North Korea, the only exception, carried out its sixth nuclear test on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is the most grave and imminent threat ever and is an egregious challenge to the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It is absolutely unacceptable. I would like to emphasize that there is an unprecedented urgency to realize the early entry into force of the CTBT and enhance

its verification regime. The International Monitoring System (IMS) under CTBT has proven effective again with this nuclear test. Following the unanimous and prompt adoption of the robust United Nations Security Council Resolution 2375 on September 11<sup>th</sup>, which imposes drastically stricter sanctions measures against North Korea, it is important that the international community persistently continues to urge North Korea to abandon nuclear and missile development.

I would like to highlight five points on which Japan has placed emphasis throughout our endeavors over the last two years.

First, high level efforts to invite signature and ratification of the CTBT including the remaining Annex 2 States. In Asia, after high level efforts by Japan and other countries, Myanmar ratified the Treaty last year, and we are aware of the ongoing efforts by Thailand towards ratification. When Thailand ratifies, all ASEAN member countries will have ratified. Since assuming the Foreign Minister, I myself have vigorously continued our individual efforts to encourage States including nuclear weapon States towards the entry into force of the Treaty.

Second, collectively working with other countries in order to remove any constraints for non-signatories and non-ratifying States. A region-focused approach is particularly effective. Japan held the Regional Conference for States in the SEAPFE region in July this year in Tokyo to promote the universalization of the Treaty in Asia. The participants engaged in fruitful discussions including non-signatories and non-ratifying States.

Third, a phased approach. For example, becoming an observer State could be a first step for countries before they sign the Treaty. Pakistan and Cuba have so far participated as observers in the CTBT related meetings.

Fourth, encouraging efforts by States to send data to the International Data Center located in Vienna and to maintain IMS facilities. In this regard, we have recently heard that China started data transmission.

Fifth, capacity building measures for National Data Centers in developing countries. Japan has provided Global Seismological Observation Training Course every year since 1996. We have taught a total of 225 trainees from 71 countries about detection of nuclear testing.

Beyond that, Japan held CTBT Group of Eminent Persons Meeting in the atomic-bombed city Hiroshima in August 2015. Members of the Group discussed the strategy for promoting entry into force of the Treaty and reported the outcomes. In February this year, we made a contribution of 2.43 US million dollars to the CTBTO to improve the detection capability of IMS. Details are summarized in the Progress Report. Through the experience as an Article XIV Coordinator, Japan believes that we need to develop and implement a strategic plan for the early entry into force of the CTBT, including constant review of this Article XIV process.

The differences among the international community over nuclear disarmament are the largest ever. Under such circumstances, there is an increased need for cooperation between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States. CTBT is all the more an essential instrument which provides a venue for States to cooperate substantively. All States must unite in realizing a world free of nuclear weapons through the CTBT. Japan is concluding our role as an Article XIV Coordinator today. Yet, we are resolved to continuously lead international efforts for the early entry into force of the CTBT, in cooperation with relevant countries and the CTBTO.

Furthermore, Japan places stronger emphasis on conveying the tragedies of the use of atomic weapons and passing the knowledge to the next generation. We will pursue the development of human resources for the future generation to contribute internationally in this field and work on potential cooperation among youth in Japan and other countries.

Let me conclude by wishing Belgium and Iraq every success as new Article XIV Coordinators and I hope there will be advancement of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation under their leadership, including the entry into force of the CTBT based on the unified effort of the international community. I will promise Japan's unwavering contribution towards that goal.