

**Statement by Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Japan, at the 11th Conference on
Facilitating the Entry-into-Force of the Comprehensive
Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

(25 September 2019, New York)

Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Provisional
Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the
CTBTO,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We are currently facing a substantial divergence of views among States on nuclear disarmament. Against this backdrop, there is an increasing need for cooperation between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is an important instrument that enables realistic cooperation among the member States in the area of nuclear disarmament. Although the Treaty has not yet entered into force, each State's commitment to the CTBT and the development of the International Monitoring System (IMS) serve to effectively deter nuclear testing.

As the only country who has suffered from atomic bombings during war, Japan has made vigorous efforts to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. To this end, as one of the practical and concrete measures where both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States can cooperate, Japan has strived to facilitate the entry-into-force of the CTBT.

I would like to highlight three points on which Japan places emphasis for the facilitation of the entry-into-force of the CTBT.

To begin with, we value the promotion of the entry-into-force and universalization of the CTBT. Seizing this opportunity, Japan calls upon non-signatory States including the remaining Annex II (two) States to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay. Since the last conference held two years ago, Thailand and Zimbabwe have ratified, and Tuvalu has signed, the CTBT. Our efforts toward the entry-into-force and the universalization of the CTBT have steadily advanced. It is critical that we continue those endeavors in the future.

Second, we attach importance to the enhancement of the CTBT verification regime to ensure that the CTBT will function effectively once the Treaty enters into force. The reliability of the International Monitoring System (IMS) has been already demonstrated. For example, the IMS detected all six nuclear tests conducted by North Korea. The IMS capability depends on data from each monitoring station installed around the world, however. We would like to encourage all signatories to send relevant data to the International Data Center (IDC) to further improve the reliability of the CTBT verification system. We would also like to express our expectation for further progress on procedures for On-Site Inspection (OSI).

Third, we give priority to capacity building for developing countries. Japan has provided the Global Seismological Observation Training Course every year since

1996. We have welcomed 254 trainees from 75 States in total. We will continue to provide training and technical help for countries in need of assistance.

Moreover, Japan places importance on conveying the reality of the use of nuclear weapons and passing such knowledge to the next generation. In this context, I would like to work on potential cooperation between youth in Japan and those in other countries.

Let me conclude by wishing Algeria and Germany every success as new Article XIV (fourteen) Coordinators. Under their leadership, it is my high hope that the entry-into-force of the CTBT will be facilitated by the united efforts of the international society, thereby leading to the steady advancement of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. I will promise Japan's unwavering contribution towards this goal.