

**Statement by Mr. IWAYA Takeshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, at the
14th Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive
Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
(26 September 2025, New York)**

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

This year marks 80 years since humanity's first nuclear test and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Next year marks the 30 years since the CTBT was opened for signature.

However, contrary to our aspirations, progress toward a world without nuclear weapons remains stagnant and increasingly difficult.

Moves such as North Korea's progress in its nuclear and missile development, as well as the opaque and rapid nuclear force build-up by certain States continues, and the security environment of the international community is becoming increasingly severe and complex.

Precisely because of these challenging circumstances, the CTBT, which prohibits all nuclear testing and thereby prevents the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons, remains a crucial treaty for advancing nuclear disarmament.

On this occasion, we call on all States that have not yet signed or ratified the treaty, including the remaining Annex 2 States whose ratification is necessary for its entry into force, to promptly sign and ratify the treaty.

At the same time, even before the treaty enters into force, implementing its substance through upholding a moratorium on nuclear testing is critically important for realizing a world without nuclear weapons.

Furthermore, strengthening the verification regime to ensure the effectiveness of the CTBT is also necessary. In order to establish an effective deterrent against nuclear testing, all signatory States must strive to maintain and enhance the International Monitoring System (IMS).

From this perspective, support for the capacity building of experts is indispensable. For approximately 30 years, Japan has annually conducted training programs to develop experts in nuclear test detection. To date, a total of 302 participants from 80 countries have participated in these programs. Japan intends to continue these initiatives.

Finally, I would like to once again express my respect for the strong leadership of CTBTO Executive Secretary Floyd and reiterate my gratitude for his visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki on this significant year that marks 80 years since the atomic bombings.

We also extend Japan's full support to the Philippines and Sweden, who have assumed the role of coordinators of the Article XIV (fourteen) Conference.

Furthermore, while paying tribute to the contributions of the late Ambassador Hoffmann, the first Executive Secretary of the CTBTO, who recently passed away, Japan seeks to make our utmost contributions towards the early entry into force of the CTBT.

I thank you.