

United Arab Emirates Statement at the CTBT Ministerial Meeting

13 June 2016

By H.E. Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi, UAE

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentleman,

At the outset, I would like to offer my government condolences and sympathies to the US government, people and the families of the victims of the terrorist attack which took place in in the US city of Orlando.

I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for convening this important gathering, the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of the (CTBT). Since 1996, the CTBT has served as a platform for global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and has thus far paved the way for broadly and effectively deterring nuclear tests.

My country has been at the forefront of advocating for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The United Arab Emirates signed the CTBT in 1996 and ratified the Treaty in 2000.

The UAE is pleased to see the progress that has been accomplished in the past twenty years towards nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament at the global level. Prior to the Treaty's opening for signature, thousands of nuclear tests were carried out around the world. Since the CTBT was opened for signature, this number has declined significantly.

There is still, however unfinished business, much more to be done. The UAE finds it unfortunate that the CTBT has not yet entered into force, and has called repeatedly on all Annex 2 States to sign and ratify the Treaty without

further delay. It is only through collective cooperation that the international community can create a world without the threat of nuclear weapons. The UAE is further dismayed by States that continue to openly defy the Treaty principles through conducting nuclear tests or adopting policies contrary to the spirit of the treaty.

My Government has condemned nuclear tests by the (DPRK) including the recent test this year, and expressed serious concern that the DPRK has continued to conduct nuclear tests. These acts are not in line with the objective of the CTBT nor the spirit of peace and stability, we urge the DPRK to respect its international obligations, and to act responsibly and cooperatively to ensure peace and security in the Korean peninsula and beyond.

Excellencies,

As all States have become increasingly aware of the proliferation threats of the current international security environment, the global demand for a ban on nuclear testing has also grown. In this respect, the entry into force of the CTBT is imperative for strengthening the regime of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It serves as a legal and technical foundation for verifiable nuclear disarmament as stipulated under the non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

Entry into force would lay the groundwork for practical steps towards nuclear disarmament, strengthening the non-proliferation regime, and introduce positive momentum for discussions in relation to the establishment of nuclear weapons free zones such as the one in the Middle East.

Subscribing to the CTBT is an important step for States to demonstrate their genuine commitment to nuclear disarmament. The CTBT complements not replace other important treaties such as the non proliferation treaty.

Excellencies,

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization has played a significant role in promoting the universalization of the CTBT and working towards its early entry into force. The UAE commends the CTBTO for its significant progress in building-up the Treaty's verification regime, which serves as a significant foundation for real-time monitoring across the globe.

UAE will continue its efforts along with international partners to advance the objective of the CTBT and will continue to work in support of measures aimed at reaching Treaty universalization and furthermore establishing a world free of nuclear weapons.

I thank you.