



Statement delivered on behalf of the European Union

By

**H.E. Mr Josep Borrell,
High Representative of the European Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

at the

**Twelfth Article XIV Conference
in support of the Entry-into-Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
(CTBT)**

United Nations

New York

23 September 2021

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Distinguished Co-Presidents,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Candidate Countries Turkey, the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.
2. The European Union would like to congratulate Italy and South Africa on assuming the Presidency of the Article XIV Conference and assure you of our full support and cooperation. Let me also express our great appreciation for the work carried out by Germany and Algeria as previous Coordinators.
3. I thank the Secretary General for making the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) a priority and all distinguished high representatives of State Signatories for their support today.
4. I also congratulate Dr Robert Floyd, on his appointment as the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) and wish him every success in promoting the entry into force and universal adherence to the CTBT.

Distinguished Co-Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. We have gathered here today to mark the 25th anniversary of the CTBT, a key pillar of our collective security and an indispensable multilateral instrument to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions represent a serious threat to international peace and security, and undermine the global non-proliferation regime.
6. At times when geopolitical competition is on the rise and multilateralism is under increasing pressure, we must redouble our efforts to uphold and strengthen the international non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, promote this important Treaty and advance towards its entry into force.

* *The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

7. The 25th anniversary is a good moment to take stock of what has been achieved and look ahead at what could be expected in the future. While the ultimate goal of bringing the Treaty into force has not been achieved yet, the CTBT has established itself as a strong, fully verifiable instrument, signed by 185 States and ratified by 170. Its International Monitoring System has already demonstrated its value in providing independent and reliable data that will help deter non-compliance. Following the DPRK's nuclear tests, reliable and independent data was quickly available for decision-makers, enabling the international community to respond appropriately and swiftly. The fact that all States Signatories already adhere to its objectives further demonstrate the CTBT's strength and value. Its entry into force will outlaw nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions in a verifiable way, for good. This is what we must continue to strive for.
8. Promoting the entry into force and universalisation of the CTBT remains a top priority of the European Union. All 27 EU Member States have ratified the Treaty, and we remain strongly committed to it. The EU calls on all States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Treaty, without any preconditions or delay. In particular, we call on the remaining eight Annex II States: China, Egypt, Iran, Israel, and the US, that still have to ratify the Treaty, and the DPRK, India and Pakistan that still have to sign and ratify it. We welcome the latest ratifications by Cuba and the Union of the Comoros.
9. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, we call on all States to refrain from conducting any action contrary to its object and purpose. We strongly condemn the nuclear tests carried out by the DPRK and call on all States to maintain moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions and other nuclear explosions.
10. The EU has been and will continue to be a strong supporter of the CTBTO. Since 2006, the EU has provided voluntary contributions of more than 29.5 million Euros for the strengthening of the CTBTO's monitoring and verification capabilities. Its data should be fully exploited also for civil and scientific purposes, such as tsunami warning, and the EU supports capacity building in this regard. We call upon all States to honour their financial obligations and step up their political support for the CTBTO.
11. On its part, the EU will continue to use every opportunity to advocate the Treaty's prompt entry into force and universalization in international fora including at the

upcoming Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and with third countries that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty.

12. Bringing the CTBT into force is not the responsibility of a group of States. It is a collective endeavour of the international community to put an end to nuclear testing. Let us all build the necessary trust and confidence and work together to finish what we started.

Thank you.