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English Only

**Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

New York, 20 September 2017

**PROGRESS REPORT ON
THE CO-PRESIDENCY BY JAPAN AND KAZAKHSTAN
OF THE ARTICLE XIV PROCESS
FROM SEPTEMBER 2015 TO SEPTEMBER 2017**

1. Japan and Kazakhstan assumed the co-presidency of the Ninth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) (Article XIV conference) on 29 September 2015. Since then, both countries, as the Co-Coordicators for the entry into force of the CTBT, have led and coordinated international efforts for the promotion of the Treaty's early entry into force and universalization. During their tenure, Myanmar and Swaziland ratified the Treaty. Today, the CTBT has 183 States Signatories, of which 166 have also ratified the Treaty.
2. During their tenure, Japan and Kazakhstan conducted many activities, individually or jointly, based on the Action Plan which set out the measures to be taken by the Co-Coordicators in support of implementing the Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty adopted at the 2015 Article XIV conference. The Co-Coordicators' activities include the following:
 - (1) Approaches by Japan and Kazakhstan to non-ratifying States
 - The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of Kazakhstan issued a joint statement to confirm their commitment to achieving the early entry into force of the CTBT and to urge all States that had not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty in Astana on 27 October 2015. They reiterated their appeal in their subsequent joint statement issued in Tokyo on 7 November 2016.
 - The Co-Coordicators issued a joint statement on achieving the early entry into force of the CTBT on the occasion of the Fourth Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC, on 31 March 2016. The joint statement was circulated among all CTBT States Signatories and observers and was officially delivered by Japan and Kazakhstan to the remaining Annex 2 States in their capitals.

- Both countries submitted to the Open-ended Working Group taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations a working paper entitled “CTBT: Effective Measures to Facilitate Establishing the Norm against Nuclear Testing” in April 2016.
 - The Foreign Ministers of Japan and Kazakhstan and the CTBTO Executive Secretary made a joint appeal for a renewed and revitalized effort towards the entry into force of the CTBT on the occasion of the 2017 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on 2 May 2017 in Vienna.
 - The President of Kazakhstan emphasized the importance of the CTBT’s entry into force and called on the eight remaining Annex 2 States to ratify the Treaty without delay and without conditions during the opening ceremony of the International Atomic Energy Agency Low-Enriched Uranium Bank Storage Facility in Astana on 29 August 2017.
 - The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and the CTBTO Executive Secretary issued a joint statement in Astana on 29 August 2017 on the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests (29 August) and reaffirmed their commitment to realizing a world free of nuclear testing, as well as renewing their resolve to achieve the entry into force of the CTBT.
 - Japan and Kazakhstan, individually and jointly, delivered diplomatic démarches to the remaining Annex 2 and other non-ratifying States at various levels, including the summit, political and ambassadorial levels, throughout the tenure of the Co-Coordinator. These meetings were held in the respective capitals of these States, as well as in Astana, Tokyo and Vienna. In these meetings, the Co-Coordinator highlighted the importance of the early entry into force of the CTBT and called for non-ratifying States’ early signature and ratification of the Treaty and for their increased engagement with the CTBTO’s International Monitoring System (IMS), while bearing in mind the country specific situations of each non-ratifying State.
- (2) Working with regional volunteer countries
- The Co-Coordinator collaborated with regional volunteer countries, as well as regional organizations, in their effort to promote the CTBT in different regions. Japan placed particular emphasis on engagement with countries in Asia, the Pacific and the Middle East, and worked closely with key promoters of the CTBT in these regions in conducting outreach and other promotional activities.
- (3) Promoting complementary approach with the GEM
- In the run-up to the 2015 Article XIV conference, Japan hosted a Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) meeting in Hiroshima on 24-25 August 2015 to discuss strategies for advancing the entry into force of the CTBT. At the meeting, the GEM issued the “Hiroshima Declaration” in which the group declared its commitment to focused efforts with the CTBT’s Article XIV co-presidents to achieve the CTBT’s entry into force and to actively engage

non-ratifying States and non-signatories in securing the Treaty's universalization.

(4) Promoting various initiatives

- Japan hosted the G7 Hiroshima Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 11 April 2016. The meeting issued the "G7 Foreign Ministers' Hiroshima Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation" and the "G7 Statement on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament", both of which urged all States to sign and ratify the CTBT.
- The Co-Coordinator actively supported the holding of the CTBT 20th Anniversary Ministerial Meeting in Vienna on 13 June 2016. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan attended the meeting while Japan and Kazakhstan also supported the realization of a commemorative exhibition in the Rotunda of the Vienna International Centre (VIC).
- In conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the closing of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, Kazakhstan hosted an international conference, "Building a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World", in Astana on 29 August 2016 to raise awareness of nuclear disarmament at the political level. The conference adopted the declaration "Astana Vision: From a Radioactive Haze to a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World".
- The Co-Coordinator supported the holding of the Eighth CTBT Ministerial Meeting organized by the Friends of the CTBT – Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands – in New York on 21 September 2016. The meeting was co-chaired by the Foreign Ministers of Australia and Japan and was attended by over 100 countries, including more than 30 foreign ministers. The meeting also adopted a joint ministerial statement making a universal political appeal for the early entry into force of the Treaty, with which 87 countries have associated themselves.
- Following the Ministerial Meeting, a special message to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Treaty was issued by the foreign ministers of the Friends of the CTBT, including the Foreign Minister of Japan, entitled "CTBT: Time to Bring a Definitive End to Nuclear Weapons Testing" on 24 September 2016.
- Both Japan and Kazakhstan co-sponsored United Nations Security Council resolution 2310 stressing the vital importance and urgency of achieving the entry into force of the CTBT, which was adopted on 23 September 2016.
- Japan hosted the Regional Conference for States in South-East Asia, the Pacific and the Far East (SEAPFE) in Tokyo on 27-28 July 2017 to raise awareness on the importance of the CTBT, to discuss ways to advance further universalization of the Treaty among the countries in the SEAPFE region and to deepen the understanding of the common challenges concerning the CTBT verification regime, as well as to share technical know-how and benefits regarding the establishment and operation of National Data Centres (NDCs).

- The 62nd Pugwash Conference “Confronting New Nuclear Dangers” took place in Astana on 25-29 August 2017. Participants of the conference issued a final declaration referencing the importance of the entry into force of the CTBT.
 - Japan, together with the other States of the Friends of the CTBT, delivered the “CTBT Friends Joint Statement” to urge all States to make the utmost effort towards the entry into force of the CTBT, on the occasion of an informal meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to mark the observance of the International Day against Nuclear Tests in New York on 30 August 2017.
- (5) Raising awareness among stakeholders and citizens
- Japan supported the opening of a permanent exhibition “Towards a World Free of Nuclear Weapons” at the VIC in November 2015. The exhibition shows the devastation to the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki from atomic bombing with the aim of sending a powerful message for a more hopeful future free of nuclear weapons.
 - Kazakhstan has been promoting the ATOM (Abolish Tests is our Mission) Project, which is an international campaign designed not only to raise awareness of the devastation caused by nuclear weapons testing, but also to urge people from all over the world to sign a petition showing world leaders the demand for a world without nuclear weapons testing. More than 300,000 people all over the world have signed the petition.
 - The Permanent Representatives of Japan and Kazakhstan in Vienna participated as panellists in a number of events on the CTBT, including the panel “Looking Back, Moving Forward: Kick-Starting the CTBT 20 Years On” at the Academic Council of the United Nations System (ACUNS) Vienna UN Conference on 13 January 2016; the panel “Moving Ahead: How to Achieve Entry into Force” on the opening day of the symposium “Science and Diplomacy for Peace and Security: the CTBT@20” on 25 January 2016; and the panel discussion “CTBT at 20: Re-energizing the Global Debate” at the Vienna Centre of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) on 24 March 2016. The Permanent Representative of Japan and the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the United States of America also attended as panellists the briefing “20 Years Later: The United States and the Future of the CTBT” organized by the Stimson Center and the Arms Control Association in Washington, DC, on 13 September 2016.
 - Japan hosted the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Nagasaki to discuss a variety of topics, including ways to achieve a world without nuclear weapons and the entry into force of the CTBT on 11-13 December 2016.
 - The Permanent Representatives of Japan and Kazakhstan in Vienna had a video conference with members of the CTBTO Youth Group at the University of Texas on 20 February 2017. The two ambassadors explained to the young people interested in the CTBT about the significance of the CTBT in the nuclear disarmament agenda and the role of youth in promoting CTBT ratification and, more broadly, nuclear disarmament.

- The Permanent Missions of Japan and Kazakhstan in cooperation with the VCDNP organized a high level event entitled “Achieving the Entry into Force of the CTBT” on 10 May 2017 on the margins of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference in Vienna. More than 170 participants attended and shared various input and ideas to advance the CTBT.
 - On 10 May 2017, on the margins of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference, the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan organized a screening of a movie by the Japanese director Yoji Yamada, “Nagasaki: Memories of My Son”, dedicated to the consequences of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. CTBTO Youth Group members and students of the University of Vienna participated in the film screening.
- (6) Support the Preparatory Commission for completion of the verification regime
- Kazakhstan hosted the Ninth International Conference “Monitoring of Nuclear Tests and Their Consequences” in Almaty on 8-12 August 2016, which provided an important forum for scientists and experts from around the world to exchange knowledge and share advances in monitoring and verification technologies of relevance to the CTBT.
 - Japan made an extrabudgetary contribution amounting to US\$2.4 million to the CTBTO in order to enhance the organization’s capabilities to detect radionuclide noble gas originating from nuclear tests, amongst other uses, in March 2017.
 - Kazakhstan made a voluntary contribution to the pilot project for the participation of technical experts from developing countries in official technical meetings of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission in June 2017.
 - Japan has hosted the Global Seismological Observation Training Course annually for the past two decades, doubling the number of trainees invited to the course in January 2017. The course aims at providing knowledge and techniques for detecting nuclear tests while also providing an opportunity for outreach to non-signatory States.
3. Reflecting on the wide range of activities conducted throughout their tenure, the Co-Coordination have made their observations as follows:
- The vast majority of the international community has recognized that the entry into force of the CTBT is a practical and pragmatic way to advance nuclear disarmament as envisaged in the NPT. Furthermore, the Treaty plays a critical role in responding to the challenge posed by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea by reinforcing the no-test norm. Therefore we must finish this “unfinished business”.
 - It is important to make continued political commitments and efforts to facilitate the signature and ratification of the CTBT by the remaining Annex 2 States. In particular, efforts should be made to approach these States at the highest political level where appropriate and practical so to engage decision makers and to encourage further signature and ratification of the Treaty.

- Emphasis should be placed on making joint international efforts to address issues that present obstacles for the remaining Annex 2 States to their signature and ratification of the CTBT. In this regard, making efforts at a regional level can be instrumental and beneficial to creating an environment conducive to ratification.
 - A gradual approach might be taken by non-signatory States, including those of the remaining Annex 2 States, towards their signature of the Treaty. Engaging with the CTBTO Preparatory Commission by participating as an observer can be a first step towards a signature.
 - Enhanced efforts are encouraged for the remaining Annex 2 and other States that have not yet done so to build IMS stations in their territories and transfer data to the International Data Centre (IDC). Continued international cooperation in capacity building for NDCs, particularly in developing countries, is needed for further strengthening the verification regime for detecting nuclear testing.
4. Two years of Co-Coordinators' activities offered valuable lessons for future activities of the Article XIV process. While the drafting of and subsequent consultations on the Final Declaration towards the 2015 Article XIV conference were among the highlights of the Co-Coordinators' activities, these were just the beginning of their activities. Indeed, experiences and insights were accumulated through their persistent outreach and other promotional activities following the conference, in particular through their close engagement with the remaining Annex 2 and other non-ratifying States. These activities are all the more important for the promotion of the Treaty and allow the Co-Coordinators to move the Treaty forward more actively and effectively.
 5. In this regard, it is worth recalling that paragraph 2 of Article XIV of the Treaty provides that the Article XIV conference "shall examine the extent to which the requirement set out in paragraph 1 has been met and shall consider and decide by consensus what measures consistent with international law may be undertaken to accelerate the ratification process in order to facilitate the early entry into force of this Treaty." In light of the goal and purpose of the conference stipulated in the Treaty, the conference should provide a useful platform for ratifying and signatory States to discuss and decide on practical and pragmatic ways to promote the ratification process by which to facilitate the Treaty's early entry into force. As more than 20 years have passed since the opening of the Treaty for signature, it is high time to review practices up until now and thereby revitalize the conference mechanism in order to fully advance its objective and renew international commitment to realizing the cause of the Treaty.
 6. As Belgium and Iraq have been elected co-presidents of the Tenth Article XIV conference in 2017, Japan and Kazakhstan reaffirm their commitment and readiness to work closely with the incoming co-presidents, as well as with other countries to further advocate the noble cause of a comprehensive and global test ban on a nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.