

Madame President.

As a country that closed down the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site back in 1991 and as Co-President of the Article XIV Conference on Facilitating the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (*CTBT*) we call on all states which have yet to sign or ratify the Treaty to do so without any preconditions and delays.

We strongly believe that a voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing is not an effective alternative to a legally binding Treaty.

For the Treaty to be an effective mechanism for non-proliferation, we believe all States must show the political will and provide the necessary resources to complete the verification regime under CTBT and maximize the capabilities of the Provisional Technical Secretariat.

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