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Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Letter dated 11 October 2012 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia and Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of Australia, Canada, Finland, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands and Sweden, we have the honour to forward to you the Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was launched on 27 September 2012 in New York (see annex). It is our pleasure to inform you that as of 11 October 2012, 101 States have associated themselves with the Joint Statement. We would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, under agenda items 100 and 121 (t).

(Signed) Gary **Quinlan**
Permanent Representative
of Australia to the United Nations

(Signed) Tsuneo **Nishida**
Permanent Representative
of Japan to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 11 October 2012 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia and Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

New York, 27 September 2012

1. We, the Foreign Ministers issuing this statement, reaffirm our strongest support for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. This would establish a legally binding, comprehensive prohibition on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions. It would mark a vital step towards the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons by constraining their development and qualitative improvement, and would therefore strengthen the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We recall that the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirmed the vital importance of the early entry into force of the Treaty.

2. We welcome that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has achieved near universal adherence with signature by 183 States and ratification by 157 States as of today. We also welcome the ratification of the Treaty by Indonesia, which is one of the States listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty, the ratifications by Guinea, Ghana and Guatemala, and the signature of the Treaty by Niue since the last meeting.

3. More than 15 years have passed since the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was opened for signature. We call upon all States that have not done so to sign and ratify the Treaty, in particular the remaining eight Annex 2 States* to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. In this regard, we fully support the Article XIV process, which seeks to facilitate entry into force, and we remain committed to the declarations issued at Article XIV Conferences.

4. With the exception of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which announced that it had conducted nuclear tests on 9 October 2006 and on 25 May 2009, the voluntary nuclear test moratorium has become a de facto international norm in the twenty-first century. Pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which remains our urgent goal due to its legally binding effect, we call upon all States to continue the moratorium on nuclear-weapon test explosions. We reaffirm our commitment to the Treaty's basic obligations and urge States to refrain from acts which would defeat the objective and purpose of the Treaty. We demand that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea refrain from any further nuclear tests, and recognizing the importance of commitments made by the Six Parties, call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully comply with the Joint Statement issued in 2005 as well as relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009).

5. We welcome the advances made by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in building the Treaty's

* China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Pakistan and United States of America.

verification regime, including the International Monitoring System, International Data Centre and On-Site Inspection elements, and reiterate the importance of the capacity-building activities relating to National Data Centres. We note that the substantial progress in strengthening the Treaty's verification regime is being increasingly recognized by members of the scientific community, including in States yet to ratify. We reaffirm our commitment to support the completion of the verification regime and urge all States signatories to do likewise.

6. While bearing in mind the Treaty's purpose, we are encouraged that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty verification regime has also demonstrated its utility in providing accurate real-time data relating to major earthquakes, tsunamis and nuclear accidents, as well as other civil scientific applications to all States signatories.

7. We appeal to all States to make the utmost effort to achieve the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We dedicate ourselves individually and jointly to realizing this goal by raising awareness of this matter at the highest political level.

Afghanistan	Ghana
Albania	Greece
Algeria	Guatemala
Andorra	Holy See
Angola	Hungary
Argentina	Iceland
Armenia	Indonesia
Australia	Iraq
Austria	Ireland
Azerbaijan	Italy
Belarus	Jamaica
Belgium	Japan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Jordan
Brazil	Kazakhstan
Bulgaria	Kenya
Burkina Faso	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Cambodia	Latvia
Canada	Lebanon
China	Lesotho
Costa Rica	Liechtenstein
Côte d'Ivoire	Lithuania
Croatia	Luxembourg
Cyprus	Madagascar
Czech Republic	Malawi
Denmark	Malaysia
Dominican Republic	Malta
Ecuador	Mexico
Estonia	Monaco
Ethiopia	Mongolia
Finland	Montenegro
France	Morocco
Gabon	Namibia

Georgia
Germany
Nicaragua
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