

REFERENCE: ODA/29-2015/CTBT-B

The Secretary-General presents his compliments to the Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 September 1996 and opened for signature on 24 September 1996.

Article XIV of the Treaty provides, in part, as follows:

1. This Treaty shall enter into force 180 days after the date of deposit of the instruments of ratification by all States listed in Annex 2 to this Treaty, but in no case earlier than two years after its opening for signature.
2. If this Treaty has not entered into force three years after the date of the anniversary of its opening for signature, the Depositary shall convene a Conference of the States that have already deposited their instruments of ratification upon the request of a majority of those States. That 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.
3. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference referred to in paragraph 2 or other such conferences, this process shall be repeated at subsequent anniversaries of the opening for signature of this Treaty, until its entry into force.
4. All States Signatories shall be invited to attend the Conference referred to in paragraph 2 and any subsequent conferences as referred to in paragraph 3, as observers.

In this connection, the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Depositary of the Treaty, would like to communicate the following:

As of today's date, the Treaty has not yet entered into force.

Annexes enclosed

At the same time, the Secretary-General has received the enclosed letter dated 20 March 2015 from the Permanent Representatives of Hungary and Indonesia to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, communicating the request of a majority of the States that have already deposited their instruments of ratification of the Treaty that he convene a Conference as provided for in Article XIV, paragraph 3.

This request having been received subsequent to the eighteenth anniversary of the opening of the Treaty for signature, and the Conference which was held in New York on 27 September 2013 not having decided otherwise, the Secretary General has the honour to convene a Conference in accordance with Article XIV, paragraph 3, of the Treaty.

The Secretary-General has the further honour, in accordance with Article XIV, paragraph 4 of the Treaty, to invite the Governments of Member States to participate in the Conference as an observer. The Secretary-General would like to communicate the wish of the majority of the States that have ratified the Treaty that the Conference be attended at a high political level.

The Conference will take place in New York on 29 September 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters. Further details on the organizational arrangements for the Conference will be communicated at a later stage.

The Secretary-General avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

8 July 2015

T. C. H.



20 March 2015

Excellency,

On behalf of a majority of States, which have ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, we, the Presidency of the Eighth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT and current Article XIV Coordinators, are writing to you, in your capacity as Depositary of the Treaty, regarding the convening in 2015 of a conference pursuant to Article XIV thereof.

Article XIV of the Treaty provides, in part, as follows:

“1. This Treaty shall enter into force 180 days after the date of deposit of the instruments of ratification by all States listed in Annex 2 to this Treaty, but in no case earlier than two years after its opening for signature.

“2. If this Treaty has not entered into force three years after the date of the anniversary of its opening for signature, the Depositary shall convene a Conference of the States that have already deposited their instruments of ratification upon the request of a majority of those States. That 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.

“3. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference referred to in paragraph 2 or other such conferences, this process shall be repeated at subsequent anniversaries of the opening for signature of this Treaty, until its entry into force.”

The first conference convened under Article XIV, paragraph 2, of the Treaty, the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, was held from 6 to 8 October 1999 in Vienna. The second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth conferences convened pursuant to Article XIV, paragraph 3, were held from 11 to 13 November 2001 in New York, from 3 to 5 September 2003 in Vienna, from 21 to 23 September 2005 in New York, from 17 to 18 September 2007 in Vienna, from 24 to 25 September 2009 in New York, on 23 September 2011 in New York, and on 27 September 2013 in New York.

His Excellency
Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Since the 2013 conference, ratifying and signatory States, together with the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, have continued to work to promote the entry into force of the Treaty. As of 31 December 2014, 163 out of 183 signatory States had ratified the Treaty, including 36 of the 44 States listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty, whose ratification is required for entry into force. It is widely recognized that intensified political endeavours are necessary to fulfil the requirements of the Treaty for its entry into force.



Against this background, ratifying and signatory States have discussed the convening in 2015 of the next conference pursuant to Article XIV of the Treaty and agreed that, as an exception and without prejudice to the established pattern of rotation of the venues of the conference, it should be held in New York preferably on 29 September 2015, or on 30 September 2015 as a fall back option. At its Forty-Third Session from 28-30 October 2014, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization adopted a decision (CTBT/PC-43/2/Annex IV) allocating resources for financing the 2015 conference.

We therefore request your Excellency, on behalf of a majority of States that have ratified the Treaty, to convene a conference pursuant to Article XIV, paragraph 3 of the Treaty in New York preferably on 29 September 2015, or on 30 September 2015 as a fall back option. The requesting States believe that this timing would be appropriate in order to maximize the possibility of high-level attendance, in particular by Foreign Ministers, who will also be taking part in the general debate of the Seventieth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. We should be grateful if you would indicate, in the communications that you will circulate in your capacity as Depository of the Treaty, the wish of a majority of ratifying States that the conference be attended at a high political level.

As was the case with previous conferences, informal consultations here in Vienna have confirmed the prevailing view of ratifying States that, in addition to ratifying and signatory States, non-signatory States should be invited to attend the 2015 conference. Accordingly, we wish to request your Excellency to circulate relevant communications to the non-signatory States of the Treaty as well, expressly inviting them to attend the conference.

The States concerned have agreed to apply the rules of procedure used at previous Article XIV conferences to the 2015 conference and these are attached herewith. Once the ratifying States have agreed on a draft provisional agenda for the conference, we will transmit it to you without delay.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

 H.E. Mr. Károly Dán Ambassador Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization	 H.E. Mr. Rachmat Budiman Ambassador Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
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Attachments: List of ratifying States on whose behalf the letter is sent
Draft Rules of Procedure

Ratifying States on whose behalf the letter is sent:

1. Albania
2. Algeria
3. Andorra
4. Argentina
5. Armenia
6. Australia
7. Austria
8. Belarus
9. Belgium
10. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
11. Brazil
12. Brunei Darussalam
13. Bulgaria
14. Burkina Faso
15. Canada
16. Chile
17. Costa Rica
18. Côte d'Ivoire
19. Cyprus
20. Czech Republic
21. Denmark
22. Ecuador
23. El Salvador
24. Estonia
25. Finland
26. France
27. Germany
28. Ghana
29. Greece
30. Holy See
31. Hungary
32. Iceland
33. Indonesia
34. Iraq
35. Ireland
36. Italy
37. Japan
38. Jordan
39. Kazakhstan
40. Kenya
41. Kuwait
42. Latvia
43. Lebanon
44. Lesotho
45. Liechtenstein
46. Lithuania
47. Luxembourg
48. Malaysia
49. Malta
50. Mexico
51. Mongolia
52. Montenegro
53. Morocco
54. Namibia
55. Netherlands
56. New Zealand
57. Nicaragua
58. Nigeria
59. Norway
60. Oman
61. Paraguay
62. Peru
63. Philippines
64. Poland
65. Portugal
66. Republic of Korea
67. Republic of Moldova
68. Romania
69. Russian Federation
70. San Marino
71. Serbia
72. Singapore
73. Slovenia
74. South Africa
75. Spain
76. Sudan
77. Sweden
78. Switzerland
79. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
80. Tunisia
81. Turkey
82. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
83. United Republic of Tanzania
84. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
85. Viet Nam