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## COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT)

**Opened for Signature:** 24 September 1996.

**Duration:** Indefinite

**Number of Signatories:** 182

**Number of Ratifications:** 151

**Number of Signatures of the 44 States noted in (Article XIV) Annex 2:** 41

**Number of Ratifications of the 44 States noted in (Article XIV) Annex 2:** 35

**Depository:** UN Secretary-General.

### Treaty Text:

**Structure:** The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) itself includes a Protocol in three parts: Part I detailing the International Monitoring System (IMS); Part II on On-Site Inspections (OSI); and Part III on Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs). There are also two Annexes to the Protocol: Annex 1 detailing the location of various Treaty monitoring assets associated with the IMS; and Annex 2 detailing the parameters for screening events.

**Basic Obligations:** The CTBT bans any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion (i.e., true zero yield).

**Organization:** The Treaty establishes a CTBT Organization (CTBTO), located in Vienna, to ensure the implementation of its provisions, including those provisions for international verification measures.

### **Verification and Compliance:**

**Verification:** The Treaty's verification regime includes an international monitoring system composed of seismological, radionuclide (16 laboratories), hydroacoustic and infrasound monitoring; consultation and clarification; on-site inspections; and confidence-building measures. The use of national technical means, vital for the Treaty's verification regime, is explicitly provided for. Requests for on-site inspections must be approved by at least 30 affirmative votes of members of the Treaty's 51-member Executive Council. The Executive Council must act within 96 hours of receiving a request for an inspection.

**Compliance:** The Treaty provides for measures to redress a violation of the Treaty and to ensure compliance, including sanctions, and for settlement of disputes. If the Conference or Executive Council determines that a case is of particular gravity, it can bring the issue to the attention of the United Nations (Article V of Treaty).

**Amendments:** Any State Party to the Treaty may propose an amendment to the Treaty, the Protocol, or the Annexes to the Protocol. Amendments shall be considered by an Amendment Conference and shall be adopted by a positive vote of a majority of the States Parties if no State Party casts a negative vote.

**Withdrawal:** Each State Party has the right to withdraw from the CTBT if it decides that extraordinary events related to the subject matter of the Treaty have jeopardized the State Party's supreme national interests.

**Entry into Force:** The Treaty will enter into force 180 days after the date of deposit of the instruments of ratification by all States listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty, but no earlier than two years after its opening for signature. Annex 2 lists the following 44 States, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Vietnam. The aforementioned States are members of the [Conference on Disarmament \(CD\)](#) with nuclear power and/or research reactors. If the Treaty has not entered into force three years after the date of its opening for signature, a conference of the States that have already deposited their instruments of ratification may convene annually to 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.

Of the 44 States included in Annex 2 required for entry into force of the CTBT, all have signed with the exceptions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), India, and Pakistan. Six of the 44 Annex 2 States have signed but not ratified the CTBT; they are China, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, and the United States. The United States and China are the only remaining NPT Nuclear Weapon States that have not ratified the CTBT.

**Review Conference:** Ten years after entry into force, a Conference of the States Parties will be held to review the operation and effectiveness of the Treaty.

**Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO):** The CTBTO consists of two organs, the Preparatory Commission (a plenary body) and the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS).

**Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS):** The PTS began its work on 17 March 1997 and has an international staff of approximately 270 members from 70 countries. The PTS cooperates with the host countries in the development and running of an international network of 321 monitoring stations and 16 radionuclide laboratories.

**Preparatory Commission:** The main task of the Preparatory Commission is to establish a global verification regime as foreseen in the Treaty so that it will be operational by the time the Treaty enters into force. A worldwide network of 321 monitoring stations and 16 radionuclide laboratories will be built and run by the host countries in cooperation with the Provisional Technical Secretariat. Some 100 stations are already transmitting data to the International Data Center (IDC) in Vienna via satellite-based global communications infrastructure. Procedures for on-site inspections and CBMs will be developed.

The Preparatory Commission has three subsidiary bodies: Working Group A on administrative and budgetary matters, Working Group B on verification issues, and the Advisory Group on financial, budgetary, and associated administrative issues. Both Working Groups make proposals and recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Preparatory Commission at its plenary sessions. Ambassador Abdulkadir Bin Rimdap of Nigeria is the Chairperson of Working Group A and Dr. Hein Haak of The Netherlands is the Chairperson of Working Group B. The Advisory Group, with Michael Weston of the United Kingdom as its chair, is composed of experts of international standing serving in a personal capacity. Ambassador Michael Potts, Permanent Representative of Australia, is the Chairperson of the Preparatory Commission for 2009.

## Treaty Developments:

2009: On 2 July 2009, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines became the 181<sup>st</sup> state to sign the CTBT. With Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' signature, 30 of the 33 States in Latin America and the Caribbean have now signed the Treaty.

On 17 August 2009, Liberia ratified the CTBT, becoming the 149<sup>th</sup> State to have done so. With this newest ratification, 37 of the 53 African countries have now ratified the Treaty. Approximately two months after signing the CTBT, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines became the 150<sup>th</sup> State to ratify the Treaty on 23 September 2009. Louis Straker, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade, deposited the instrument of ratification at the United Nations in New York, preceding the commencement of the sixth Conference on Facilitating the Entry Into Force of the CTBT. With this ratification, 29 of the 33 States in Latin America have now ratified the Treaty.

On 8 October, Trinidad and Tobago signed the CTBT, bringing the number of CTBT State Signatories to 182. With the ratification by Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba and Dominica are the only States in Latin American and the Caribbean that have not signed the Treaty.

On 30 October 2009, 175 States voted in favor of the CTBT resolution during the 64<sup>th</sup> U.N. General Assembly First Committee meeting. Only one country voted against the resolution (North Korea) and three abstained (India, Syria, Mauritius). The backing of the Treaty by nearly every State exemplifies the nearly universal support that the CTBT enjoys. The CTBT resolution was tabled by the original co-sponsors, Australia, Mexico and New Zealand, and was co-sponsored by another 74 States, including for the first time ever, all five permanent members of the Security Council: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States.

The resolution "stresses the vital importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions, to achieve the earliest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty... and in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to ensuring their earliest successful conclusion."

The resolution also welcomed "the ratification of the Treaty by Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as the

signature by Trinidad and Tobago, as significant steps towards the early entry into force of the Treaty.”

On 28 October 2009, the Marshall Islands became the 151<sup>st</sup> State to ratify the CTBT.

**2008:** On 14 January 2008, Barbados signed and ratified the CTBT. This was followed on 17 January with ratification by Malaysia, which had signed the Treaty in July 1998. Malaysia is the sixth out of the 10 ASEAN countries to ratify the Treaty; it is coordinating CTBT-related issues for the Non-Aligned Movement from 2006-2009 and is active in non-proliferation and disarmament issues.

Colombia became the 35<sup>th</sup> Annex 2 State to ratify the CTBT on 29 January 2008; Colombia had signed the Treaty on 24 September 1996. After this ratification, nine Annex 2 States must still ratify the Treaty before it can enter into force; the nine States are China, the DPRK, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Iran, Pakistan, and the United States. At the time, 178 States had signed the CTBT, while 144 States had deposited their instruments of ratification with the United Nations Secretary-General.

On 19 August 2008, Iraq became the 179<sup>th</sup> state to sign the CTBT. Iraq was one of the few remaining larger countries in the world that had not signed the treaty, and Iraq’s signature now brings the total number of signatory states in the critical Middle East and South Asia group to 21 out of 26.

Shortly after a joint ministerial meeting in September 2008, Burundi ratified the Treaty, and Timor Leste signed, bringing the number of signatories to 180 and the number of ratifying states to 145.

Mozambique ratified the treaty on 4 November, and both Malawi and Lebanon deposited their instruments of ratification on 21 November, bringing the number of ratifying states to 148.

**2007:** The Republic of Moldova deposited its instruments of ratification to the United Nations Secretary-General on 16 January 2007, bringing the total number of ratifications to 138. Moldova’s ratification is of particular significance as it completes the ratification of the Treaty by all States in Europe.

The Dominican Republic ratified the Treaty on 4 September 2007, just two weeks prior to the fifth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Article XIV Conference). The decision by the Dominican Republic followed the ratification of the Treaty by the Republic of Palau on 1 August 2007.

**2006:** During the first three months of 2006, five States deposited their instruments of ratification with the United Nations. These States are Antigua and Barbuda, Cameroon, Suriname, Zambia, and Cape Verde.

On 10 March 2006, Vietnam deposited its instrument of ratification with the United Nations Secretary-General, thus becoming the 34<sup>th</sup> Annex 2 State to ratify the Treaty. There are now 10 Annex 2 States yet to ratify the treaty before it enters into force.

After declaring its independence on 3 June 2006, and becoming the 192<sup>nd</sup> member of the United Nations on 28 June 2006, the Republic of Montenegro succeeded to the CTBT on 23 October 2006. Bosnia and Herzegovina deposited its instrument of ratification with the United Nations on 26 October 2006.

Between July and August 2006, three States from three separate CTBT geographical regions deposited their instruments of ratification with the United Nations: Armenia and Andorra both ratified the Treaty on 12 July 2006, while Ethiopia ratified on 8 August 2006.

**2005:** Convened from 27-30 June 2005, the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Preparatory Commission welcomed ratifications by Rwanda and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Member States welcomed the ratification of the Treaty by the Cook Islands, Djibouti, Madagascar, and Vanuatu during the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Preparatory Commission, held from 14-18 November 2005.

**2004:** The 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Preparatory Commission was held from 22-24 June 2004. During the session, Member States welcomed ratifications by Bahrain, Belize, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, and Sudan. The Commission also determined that Timor Leste would be included in the South East Asia, Pacific and the Far East geo-geographical region.

On 28 September, the Democratic Republic of the Congo deposited its instrument of ratification with the United Nations Secretary-General, thus becoming the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annex II State to ratify the CTBT. The United Republic of Tanzania signed and ratified the Treaty on 30 September 2004. These ratifications bring the total number of ratifications in the African geographical region to 25, and the total number worldwide to 118.

The 23rd session of the Preparatory Commission, convened from 15-19 November 2004, welcomed the ratifications of the Treaty by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liechtenstein, Togo, Tunisia, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

**2003:** The 20th session of the Preparatory Commission was held from 24-27 June 2003. States Signatories welcomed the signature of the CTBT by Gambia and ratification by Albania, Cote d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Mauritania and Oman, as well as the completion of the national ratification procedure in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya since the previous session of the Commission.

The 21st session of the Preparatory Commission was held 10-14 November 2003. States Signatories welcomed recent ratifications by Afghanistan, Algeria, Cyprus, Eritrea, Honduras, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, and Oman. As of 19 November 2003, the Treaty had been signed by 170 States and ratified by 108. Thirty-two Annex 2 States had already deposited their instruments of ratification with the United Nations Secretary-General.

**2002:** At the 18th session of the Preparatory Commission, held from 19-22 August 2002, Member States welcomed the ratification of the CTBT by Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, and Venezuela. Niger ratified the Treaty on 9 September, and Georgia and Samoa ratified on 27 September. Botswana deposited its instrument of ratification with the United Nations Secretary-General on 28 October 2002.

**2001:** The 14th and 15th sessions of the Preparatory Commission, held from 24-27 April and 21-24 August 2001 respectively, welcomed ratifications by 12 States: Benin, Croatia, Guyana, the Holy See, Kenya, Malta, Namibia, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, Uganda, and Ukraine.

During the 16th session of the Preparatory Commission, convened from 19-23 November 2001, Member States welcomed the recent ratifications by Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica, Latvia, Nauru, Nigeria, Paraguay, Singapore, Sierra Leone, and Uruguay.

**2000:** At the 12th session of the Preparatory Commission, held from 22-24 August 2000, Member States welcomed ratifications by Chile, Iceland, Portugal, and Russia.

Held in Vienna from 20-21 November 2000, the 13th session of the Preparatory Commission welcomed ratifications by Belarus, Cambodia, Gabon, Kiribati,

the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, and the United Arab Emirates.

**1996-1999:** The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was adopted by the General Assembly as a resolution (A/RES/50/245) on 10 September 1996. The Treaty opened for signature on 24 September 1996. Between 1996 and 1999 the following States signed and ratified the Treaty: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Mali, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uzbekistan.

The following States signed the Treaty between 1996 and 1999, but had not yet ratified it: Angola, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Liberia, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Thailand, United States of America, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

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