

Statement by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, on announced nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 9 September 2016
As delivered

Early this morning the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) verification system detected seismic waveforms, which were likely caused by a nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Subsequently the DPRK announced that it had conducted a nuclear test. If proven, it will be the country's fifth such test, and the second conducted this year.

This is a matter of the utmost concern to the international community and must be regarded as entirely unacceptable in that it poses a grave threat to international peace and stability.

Today's event is all the more reason why the Treaty should enter into force as soon as possible. I call on all nations to do everything they can to reach this goal.

The announced test is a clear violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions. I call on the DPRK to fully comply with its international obligations.

183 States have signed and 164 States have ratified the CTBT. Further ratifications of the Treaty are expected imminently. In this year of the twentieth anniversary of the CTBT, the international community strongly holds that nuclear tests should be prohibited.

I also wish to congratulate the CTBTO and its staff for its work in building and maintaining the verification system. It has once again proved its effectiveness in providing essential data and products to State Signatories.