

INTERVENTION OF

H.E.Mr Sabri BOUKADOUM

Minister of Foreign Affairs

EUROPEAN FORUM ALPBACH

August 29th, 2020

18h30-19h30

Excellency Tarja HALONEN, Former President of Finland,

Excellency Lassina ZERBO, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization,

Dear guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to take part in the virtual High-Level panel of the European Forum Alpbach which is dedicated to the concept of **“Championing a Nuclear Test Free World”**.

I would like to commend the efforts of the International Community, or should I say the overwhelming majority, towards the entry into force of the CTBT as well as to the development of its verification regime. I cannot embark upon my statement without warmly welcoming efforts made by Finland and President, Tarja HALONEN, in this regard.

My sincere appreciation go to the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO, Dr. Lassina ZERBO, for his commitment and leadership in serving the CTBTO and promoting the entry into force of the Treaty, particularly through the organization of similar events.

By our participation in this Forum, we show clearly our solid commitment to the early entry into force of the CTBT, a milestone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as well as a key element for the preservation of the international peace and security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of fact, that the conclusion of the CTBT was a triumph for multilateral diplomacy and a strong proof of its efficiency in the domain of security and disarmament through negotiations, but, **unfortunately, 24 years following its opening for signature, still not yet into force.**

This bitter truth imposes on all of us to take opportunities to intensify our efforts, collectively and individually, for the early entry into force of this Treaty. It must be a priority for the International Community that was clearly stated through the review Conferences of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

At this stage, Algeria has been unwavering in its strong appeal towards all Parties, particularly the Annex II countries, who did not yet sign or ratify the CTBT to do so as soon as possible. The importance and the relevance of this international instrument have been confirmed as an international norm in the responsible behavior of States in the nuclear domain, especially with the 168 ratifications among the 184 States Signatories.

Today's discussion is also an opportunity to reiterate the African countries commitment in the issues related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and particularly to the CTBT. The entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty, making Africa a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, bears witness of this interest. Furthermore, my Country still firmly attached to the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East, according to the NPT Review Conferences outcomes as well as to the relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Algeria believes that efforts to promote the entry into force of the CTBT should not lead to neglect the achievement of the other goals of the CTBTO or even the considerable efforts by all stakeholders, in particular the States Signatories and the Provisional Technical Secretariat.

We welcome in this regard the remarkable progress made in the setting up and the development of the three pillars of the CTBT verification regime, namely: the International Monitoring System (IMS), The International Data Center (IDC) and the On-Site Inspection regime (OSI). We note, furthermore, with great satisfaction the efforts that allowed the certification of 300 stations and

laboratories among the 337 planned in the Treaty; 3 stations more since the 11th Conference on Article XIV, held in New York on 25 September 2019.

Algeria attaches at the same time a particular importance to the issue of capacity building, within the States Signatories, in the different technologies related to the verification regime. It will help the developing countries and mainly African State Parties to update and upgrade their capacities in a manner to optimize the benefits from civil and scientific applications. This also could tremendously serve the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we mark today the United Nations International Day against Nuclear Tests, allow me to recall that my country and my people still paying a heavy toll on humanitarian and ecological following the nuclear tests, made, during the colonial rule, on our territory. Algeria fully believes that a total elimination of nuclear weapons is the sole and final solution to face the dangers of those abominable weapons on humanity.

I would also like to express the entire commitment of my country to spare no effort, along with Germany, Co-chairs of the 11th Conference of Article XIV of the CTBT to achieve its entry into force.

Without having faced the hard impact of measures taken in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, I am pleased to point out that the Co-chairs of the Article XIV Conference, Algeria and Germany, are committed to implementing 2020–2021 an ambitious program focused on Youth mobilization for saving humanity of apocalyptic effects of nuclear tests. Remember, nuclear weapons are the only WMD that are not banned internationally. Let's hope that the rationale that sustained the elements of other WMD will one day, soon, prevail on Nuclear weapons.

I thank you for your attention.