European Union

Statement on the occasion of the 39th Session of the C T B T O Preparatory Commission

22-24 October 2012

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland** and Serbia*, the countries of the Stabilization[1] and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

2. Let me congratulate you, Madam Chair, on your election to the chair of the Preparatory Commission and assure you of the EU's full cooperation with you. Let me also thank the Executive Secretary for his written and oral reports and the PTS and you, Madam Chair, for your work in preparation of this meeting. We request the Secretariat to keep a full record of the proceedings of Item 7 of the Agenda.

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* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilization and Association Process

** Iceland remains an EFTA country and member of the European Economic Area

3. There are encouraging prospects for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, as we have seen from the growing number of States signing and ratifying the Treaty. The EU is convinced that the Treaty plays a central role in underpinning the international non-proliferation regime and our efforts towards global disarmament. We must therefore ensure that the Treaty and its goals remain a priority for key high level decision makers. In this respect the EU welcomes the outcome of the Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the CTBT in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly last September. The presence of so many Ministers, and the growing number of countries associating themselves with the final statement, once again demonstrated the wide global support for the CTBT.

4. The strong message of support adopted through the Joint Ministerial Declaration Statement at the event sent a clear and unequivocal message of why the work of the Organisation remains a key disarmament and non-proliferation priority. We believe that the event was a success in enhancing the profile of the Organisation, and we would like to thank the organizers Australia, Canada, Finland, Japan and the Netherlands, and the Article XIV coordinators, Mexico and Sweden for their hard work to ensure the success of the event and for their committed efforts to promote the entry-into-force of the Treaty in this way.

5. We will capitalise on this momentum, by intensifying our work advocating the CTBT, and encouraging all States, which have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty, in particular the eight remaining Annex II States, to do so without further delay. We will continue promoting the merits of the Treaty broadly and widely, with the rationale that near universalization of the Treaty can create a strong argument for advancing work within the CTBTO. The EU will continue to maintain a positive outlook for the CTBT in the current NPT review cycle, and promote its value as a pillar of the international disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

6. The EU's active commitment to the CTBT does not stop at advocacy. Within the framework of Common Foreign and Security Policy, four council decisions have provided substantial and increasing financial contributions to further the work of the Organisation. A new EU Council Decision has been proposed, on a further voluntary

contribution of more than five million Euros, to the CTBTO's work. This funding will advance and develop activities in the fields of technical assistance and capacity building, developing capacity for future generations of CTBT Experts, enhancement of the Atmospheric Transport Model (ATM), characterization and mitigation of radio xenon noble gases, development of an Integrated Multispectral Array to support the IFE14 and sustainment of certified IMS Auxiliary Seismic Stations. If adopted this contribution will be of global benefit and will significantly support the CTBTO.

Madam Chair,

7. The EU and its Member States concur with Working Group A and the Advisory Group recommendations for the changes of the financial rules and regulations which will allow the PTS implementation of an IPSAS compliant ERP system. As procurement remains an area requiring improvements, the EU would like to receive a full list of proposals in due course. We express our satisfaction with the results of the work of the 39th Session of Working Group B and the 42nd Session of Working Group A and we are ready to approve the recommendations contained in the reports from both working groups.

8. The Member States of the EU reiterate their strong support for an adequately funded PTS that has the resources to effectively and efficiently carry out its mandate, including on developing a robust verification regime in all its elements. We would like to thank the PTS for its proposed adjustments and its revised draft 2013 budget proposal (CTBT/PTS/INF.1180/Rev.1) looking forward to its adoption at this session of the PrepCom. In view of next year's discussions, we reiterate our support for an open and transparent dialogue between the State Signatories and the PTS, providing State Signatories with specific, accurate and adequate information in advance of discussions.

Finally Madam Chair,

9. The EU reiterates its active commitment to building and maintaining an effective and credible verification regime with civil and scientific applications that benefit all States Signatories. We will continue to strive towards strengthening the verification

capabilities of the CTBTO, to build support for the universalization of the CTBT and to further enhance the prospects for early entry into force.

Thank you Madam Chair.